

Models

Lecture #6

The distance ladder



The Cosmological Distance Ladder

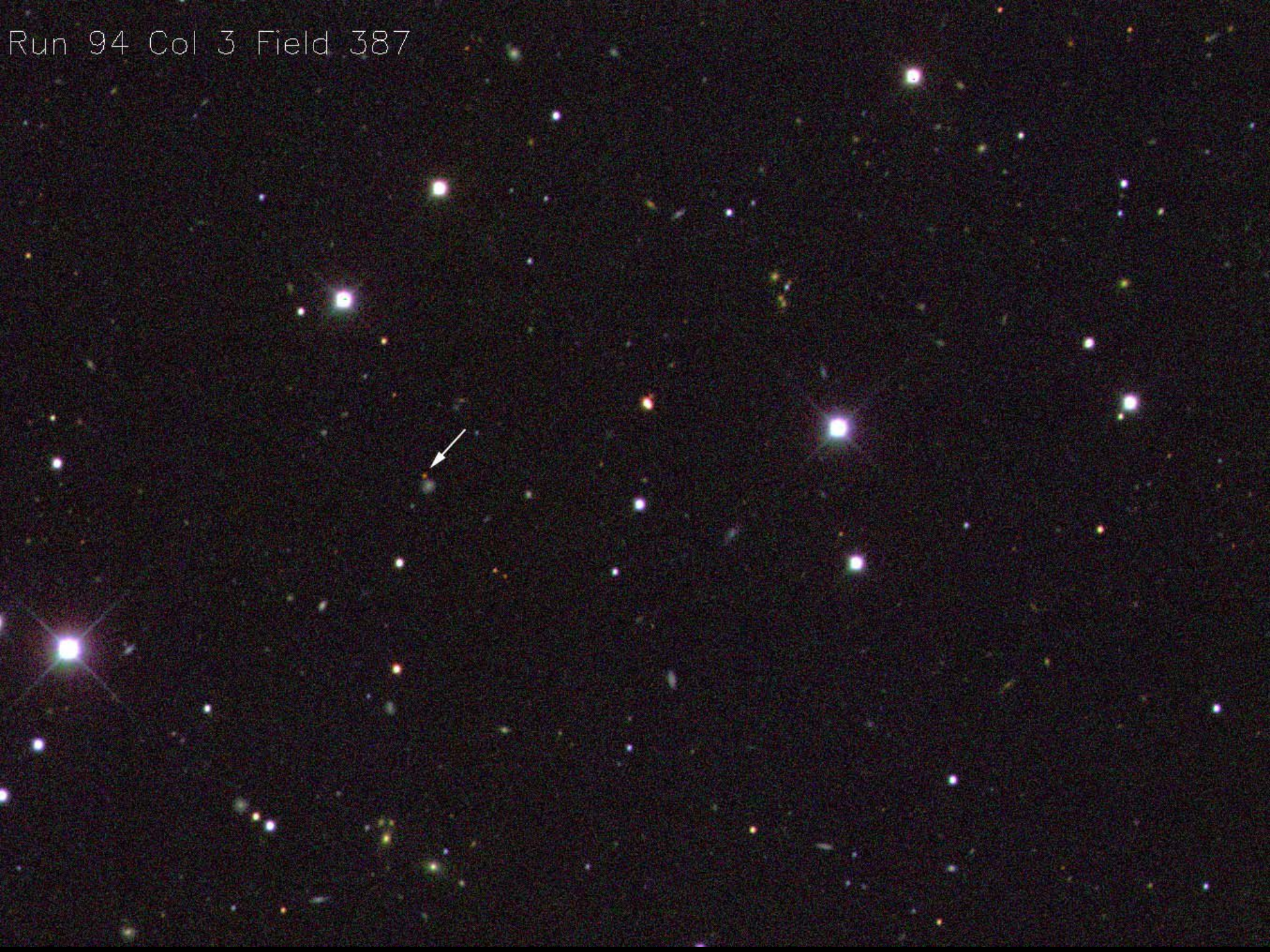
1 AU

Sun
(geometry)

Moon
(geometry)

Earth
(geometry)

Run 94 Col 3 Field 387

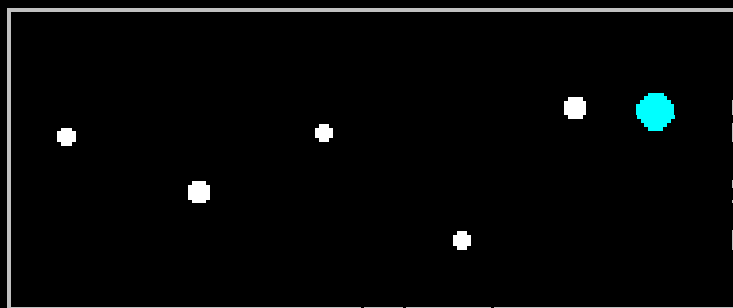


They (appear to) move

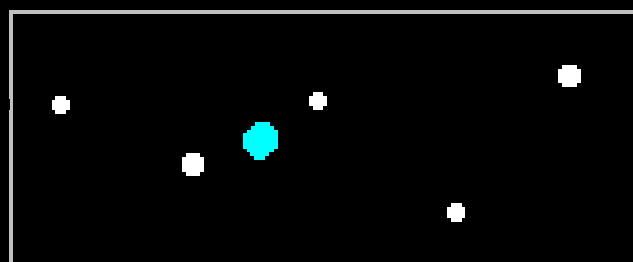
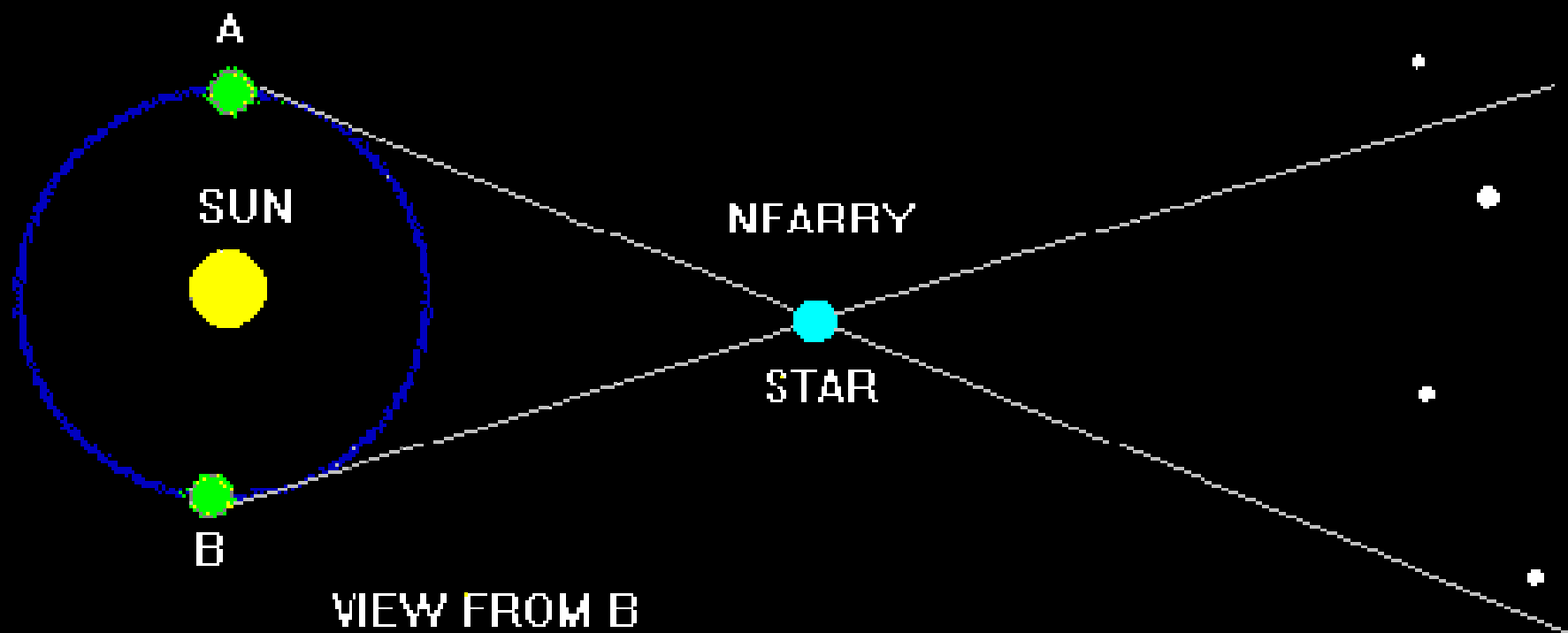
They have different apparent brightness

They have different colors

They change in brightness



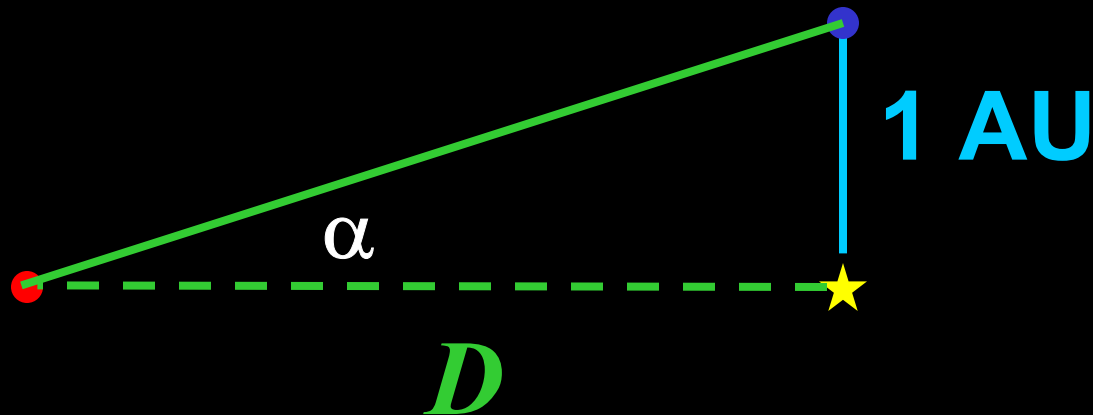
VIEW FROM A



VIEW FROM B

$$\frac{D}{200,000 \text{ AU}} = \frac{\text{seconds}}{\alpha}$$

$$\frac{D}{\text{pc}} = \frac{\text{seconds}}{\alpha}$$



$$\frac{D}{\text{pc}} = \frac{\text{seconds}}{\text{parallax}}$$

star	parallax (")	distance (pc)
α Centauri	0.75	1.3
Barnard's star	0.5	2.0
Sirius	0.4	2.5
Altair	0.2	5.0

Let's think for a second of arc



$$\alpha = \frac{2 \text{ km}}{D} \text{ seconds}$$

α	D
4''	1/2 km
2''	1 km
1''	2 km
0.1''	20 km
0.01''	200 km
0''	infinity

They (appear to) move

They have different apparent brightness

They have different colors

They change in brightness

Logarithmic Eye



**Eyes, like ears, are
logarithmic detectors.**

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

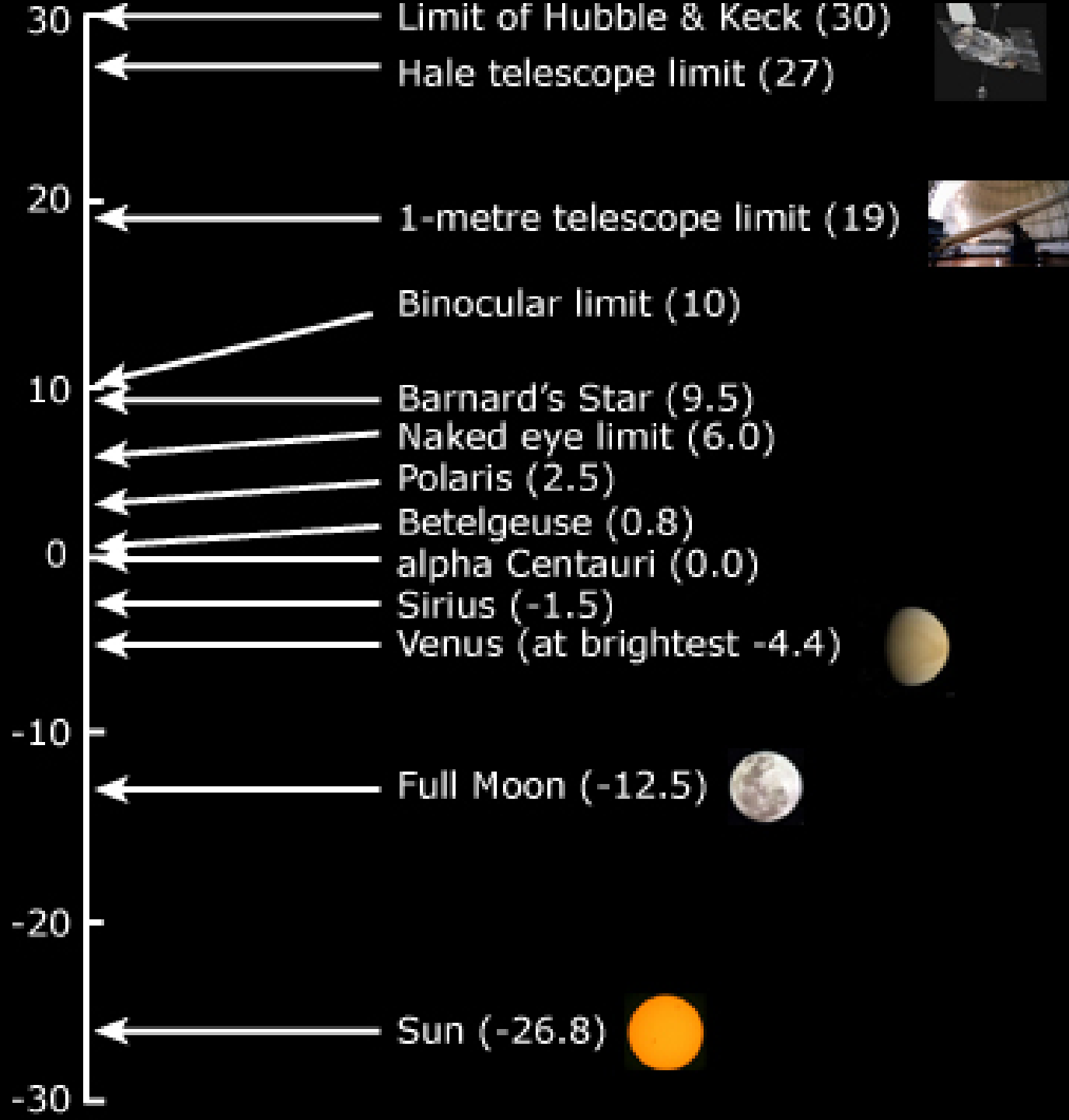
**Greeks classified (visible) stars into 6 classes,
or magnitudes**

Brightest stars were 1st magnitude

Dimmest stars were 6th magnitude

Intensity of brightest stars = 100 X dimmest.

Apparent Magnitude



The luminosity of nearby stars?

Measure: intensity of light, I

Intensity depends on

- 1. Luminosity of source (property of source)**
- 2. Distance to the source**

Inverse-square law

$$I = \frac{L}{4\pi R^2}$$

parallax \rightarrow distance

$$\frac{D}{\text{pc}} = \frac{\text{seconds}}{\text{parallax}}$$

$$I = \frac{L}{4\pi R^2}$$

Measured

star	parallax (")	distance (pc)	apparent magnitude	luminosity (solar)
α Centauri	0.75	1.3	0	1.5
Barnard's star	0.5	2.0	9.5	0.0005
Sirius	0.4	2.5	-1.5	25
Altair	0.2	5.0	0.8	10
Canopus	0.003	330	- 0.7	200,000
Arcturus	0.1	10	0	90
Betelgeuse	0.01	100	0.5	14,000

**Our Sun ain't the
brightest bulb in the box!**

$$\text{Intensity} = \frac{\text{Luminosity}}{4\pi R^2}$$

$$L_{\text{SIRIUS}} = 25 \times L_{\text{SUN}}$$

For stars we know distance to via parallax:

Measure	Distance (R)	→	Know Luminosity
Measure	Intensity		

They (appear to) move

They have different apparent brightness

They have different colors

They change in brightness

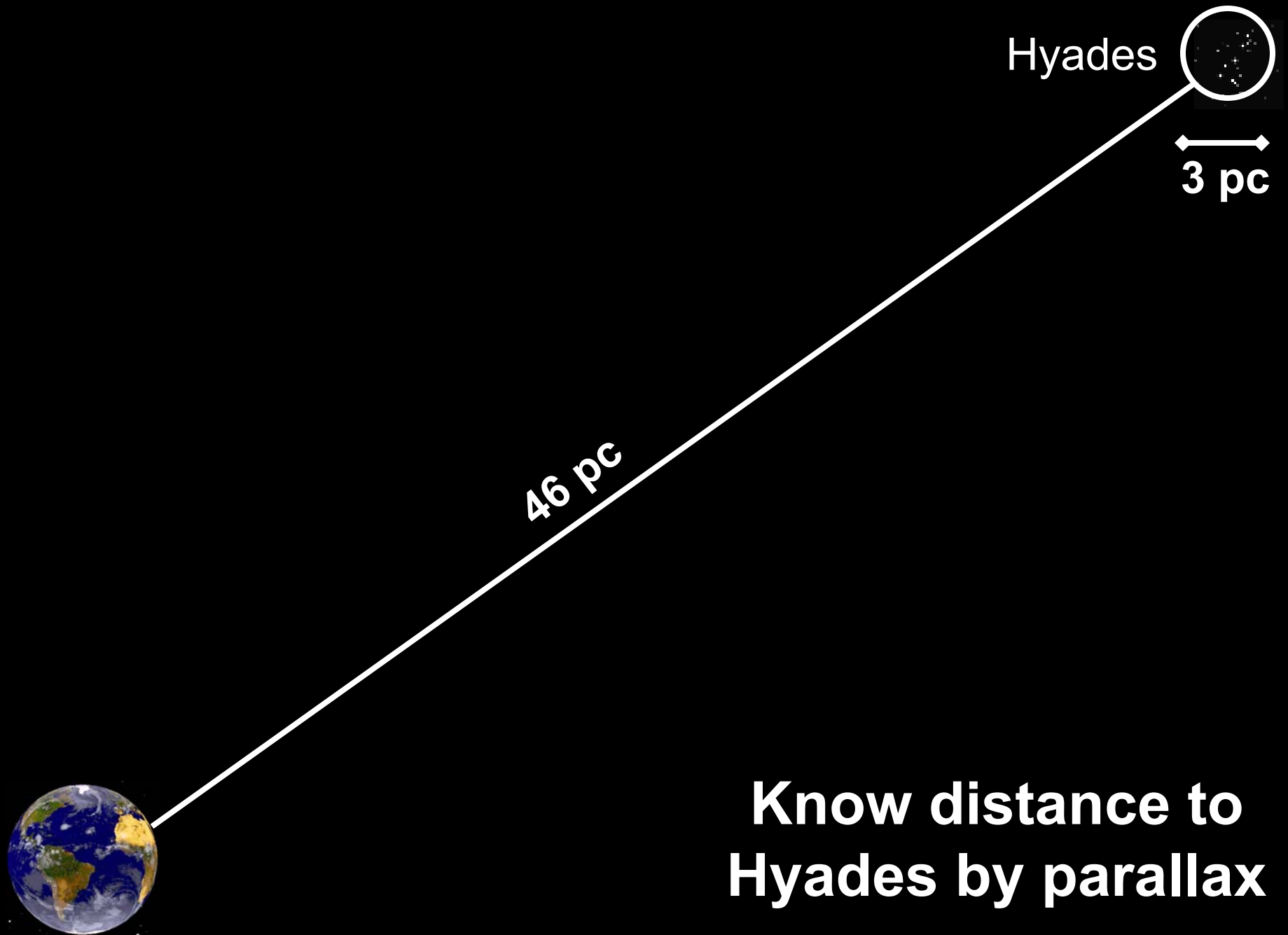
COLORS OF THE RAINBOW:

R O Y G B I V



M45 (Pleiades)

Hyades



Hertzprung-Russell Diagram

DIM
MAGNITUDE
BRIGHT

V

I

B

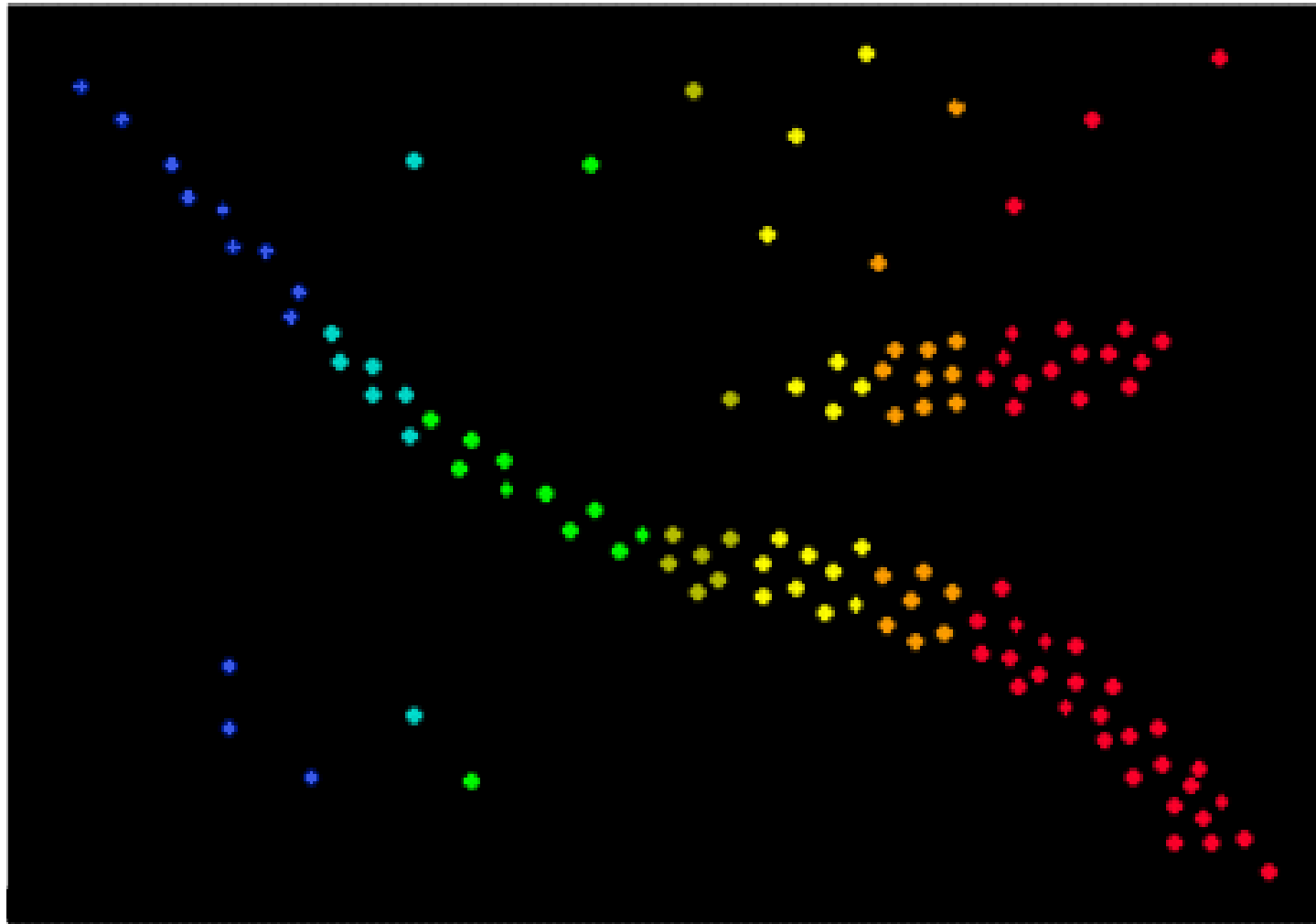
G

Y

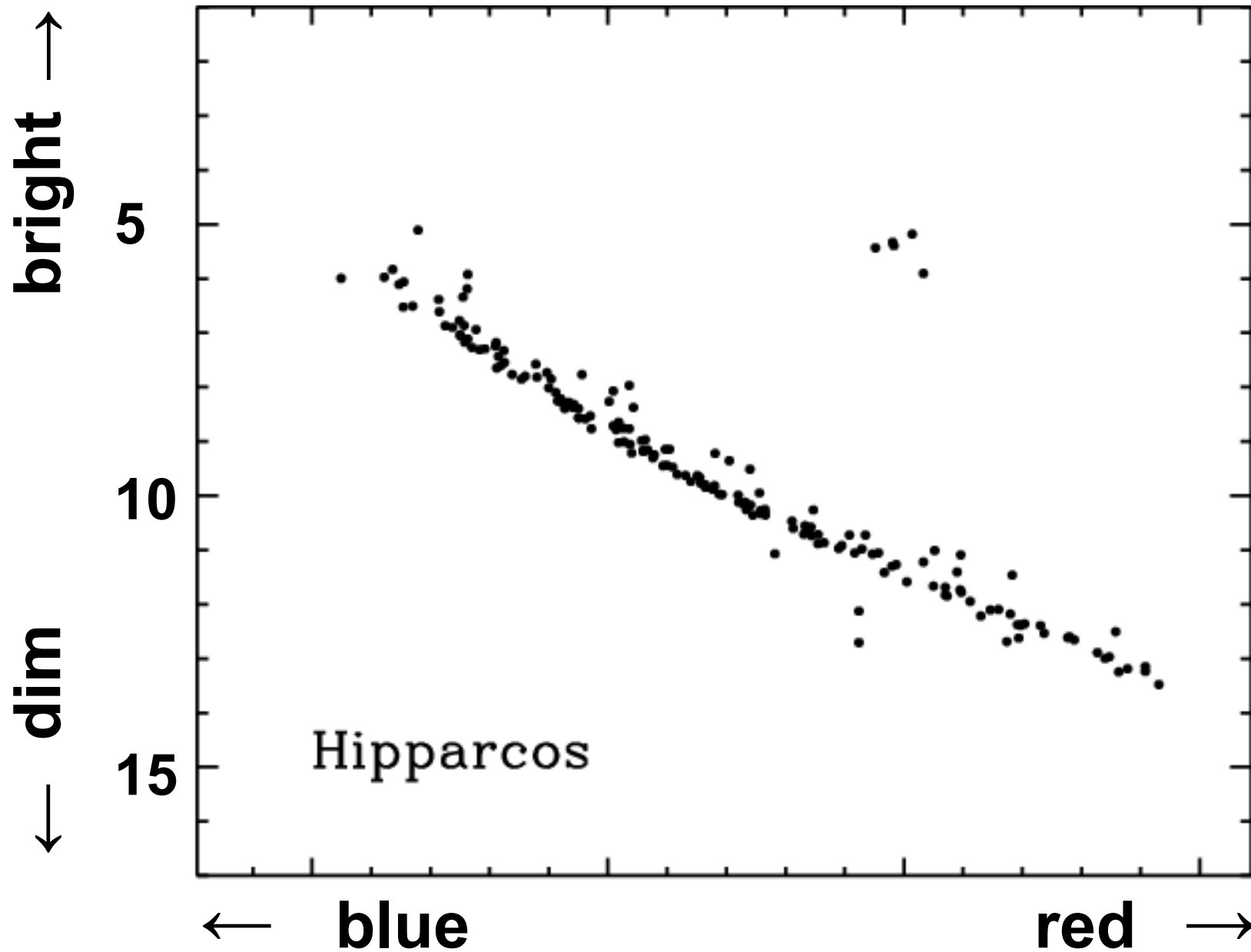
O

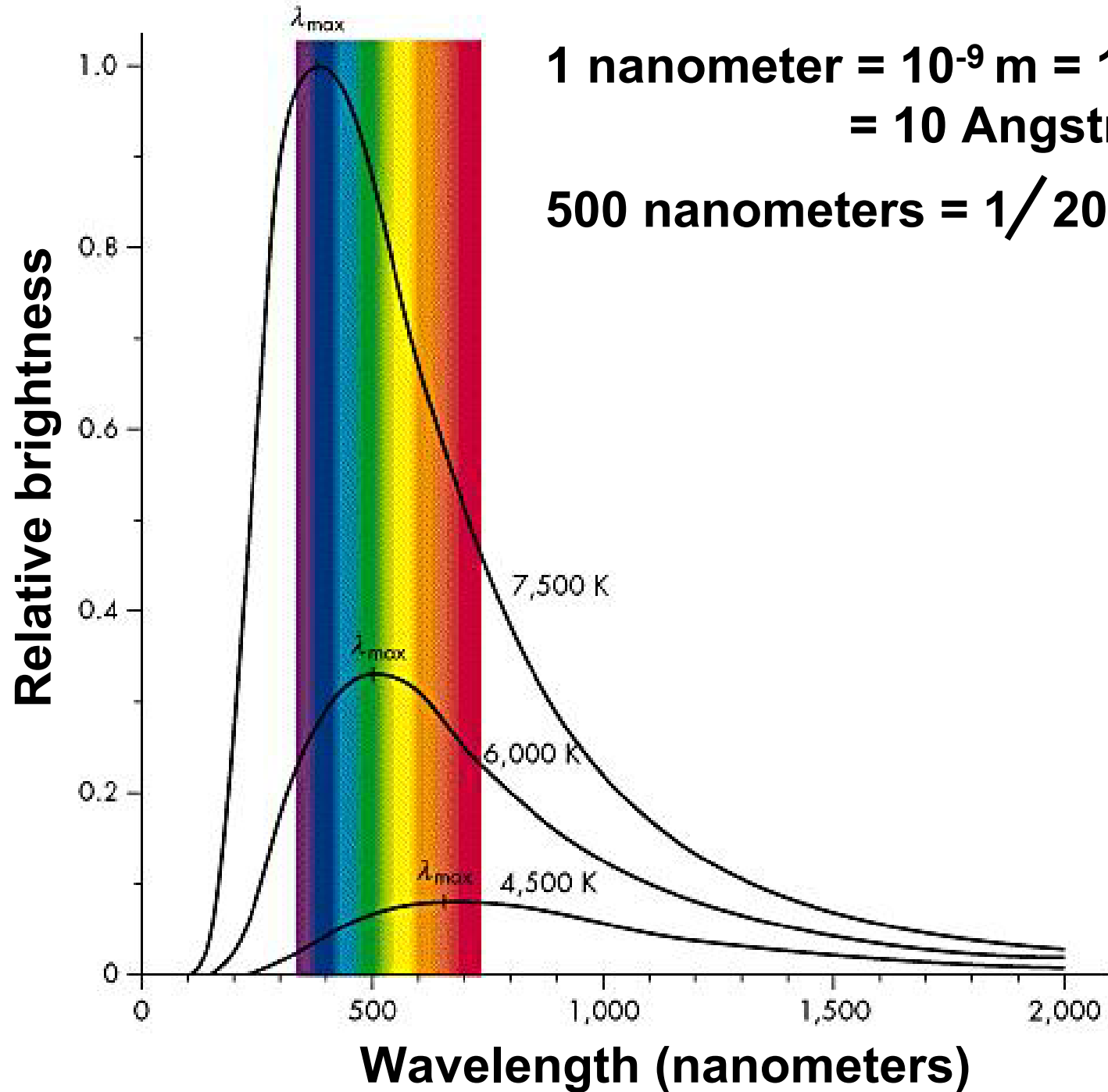
R

COLOR



Hyades HR diagram

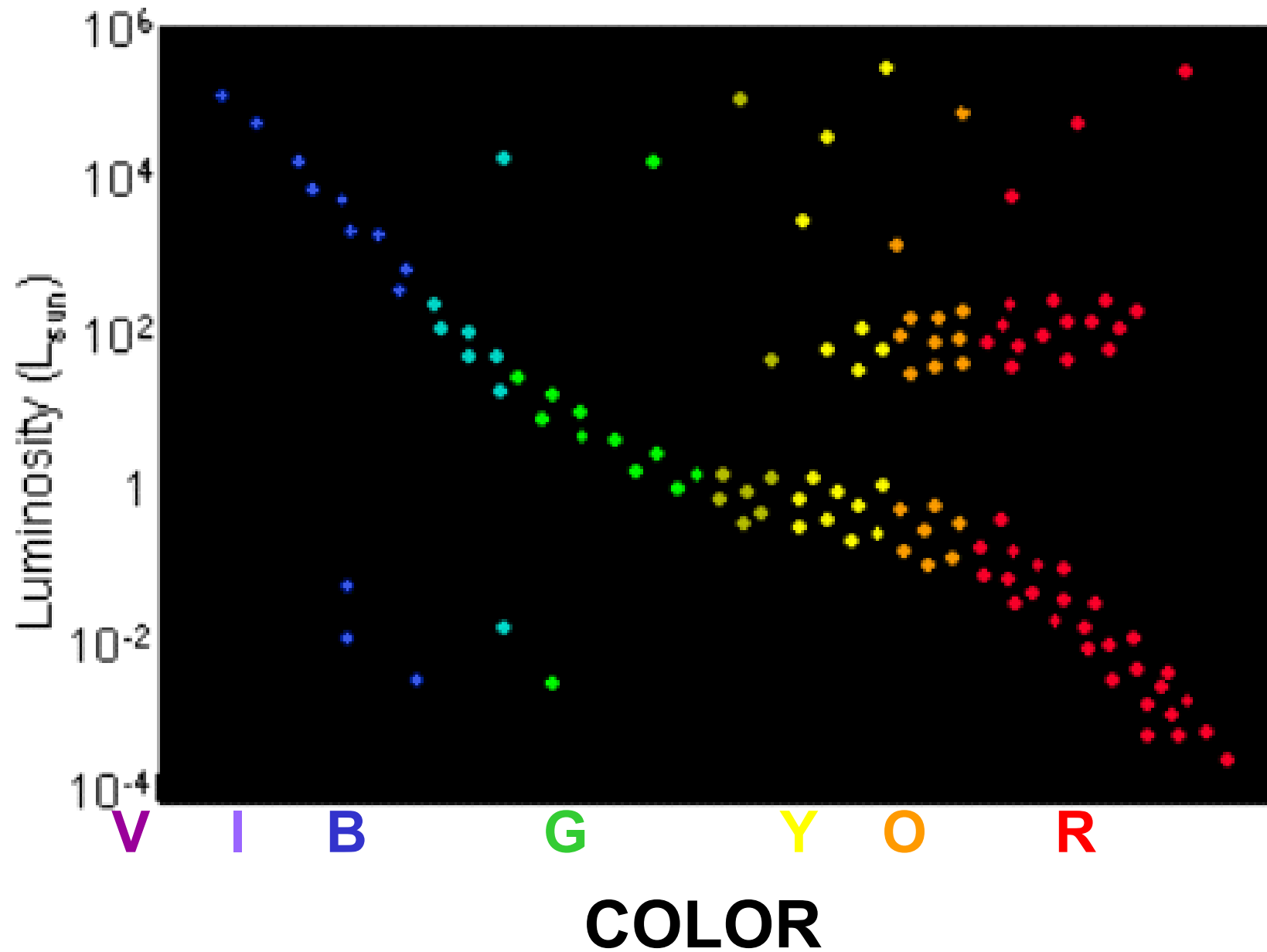


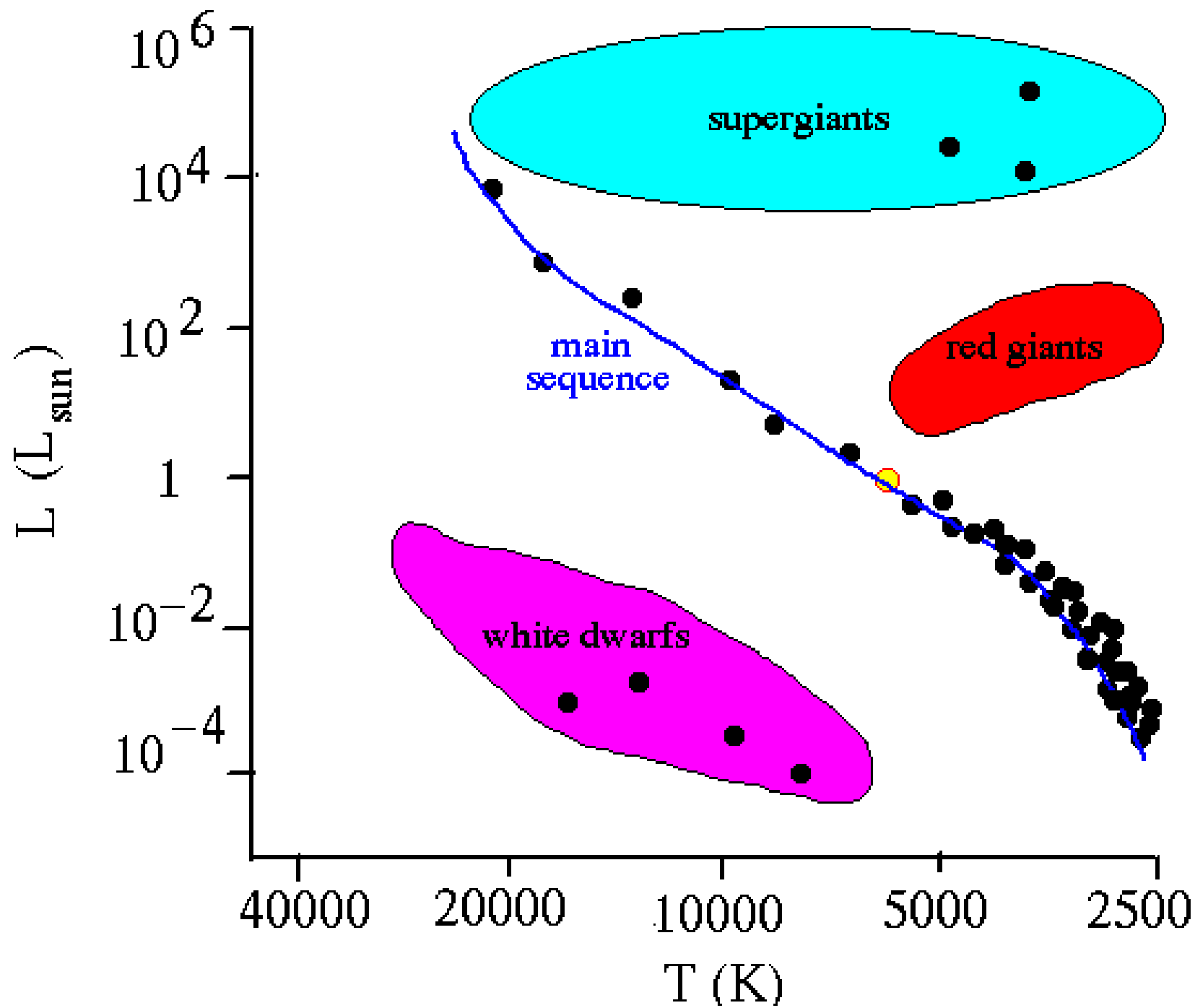


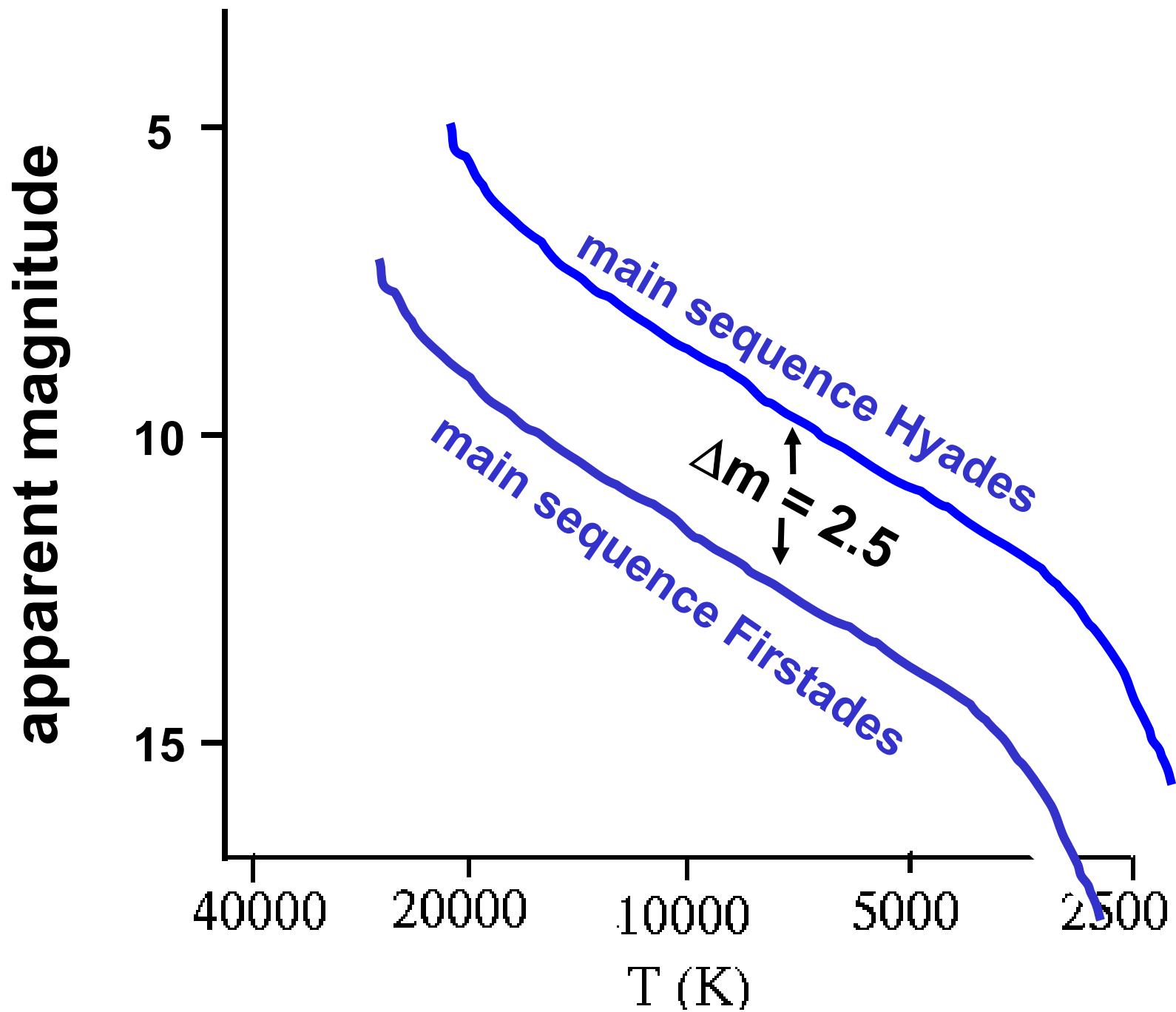
1 nanometer = 10^{-9} m = 10^{-7} cm
= 10 Angstroms

500 nanometers = $1/20,000$ cm

Schematic Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram

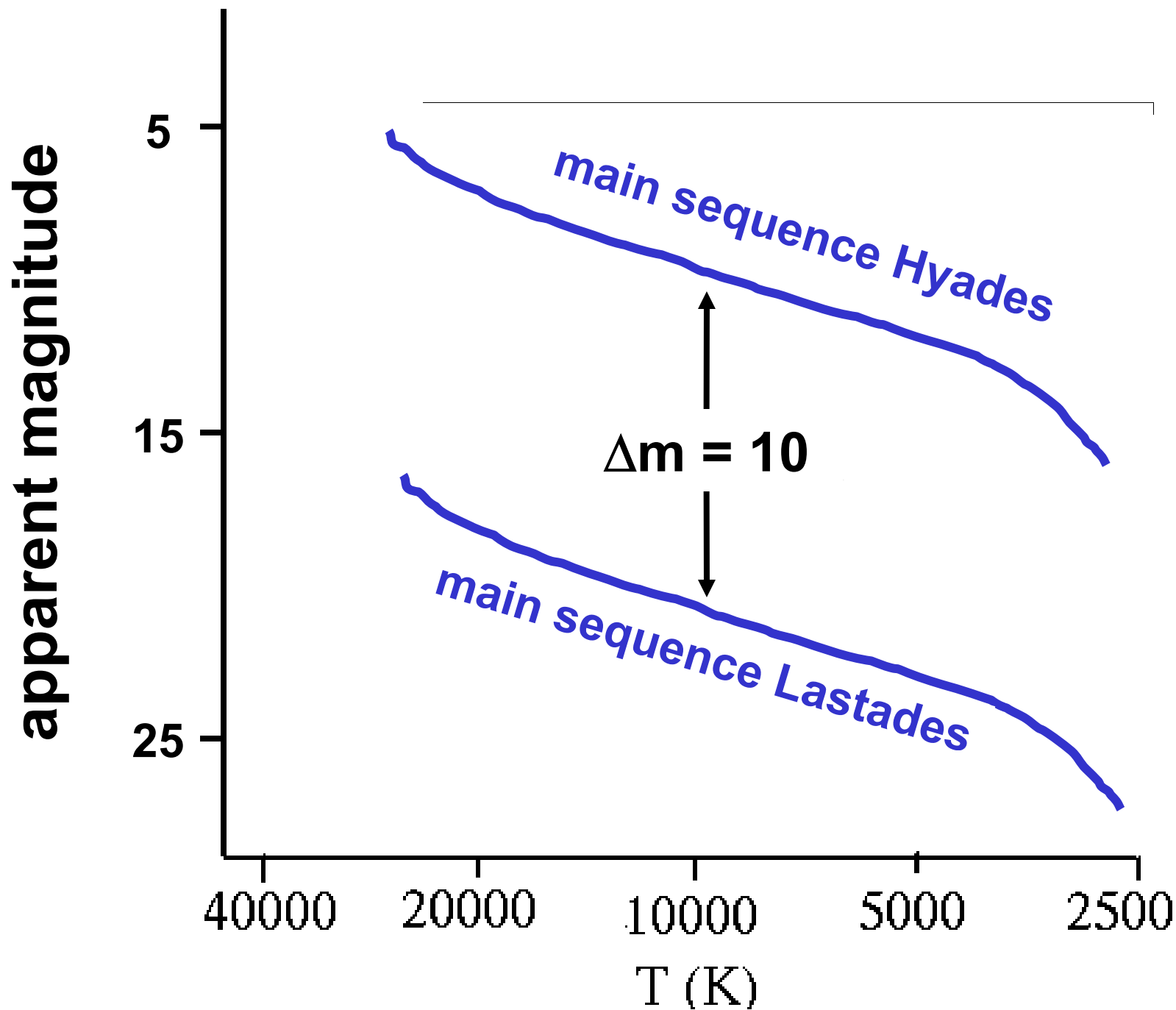




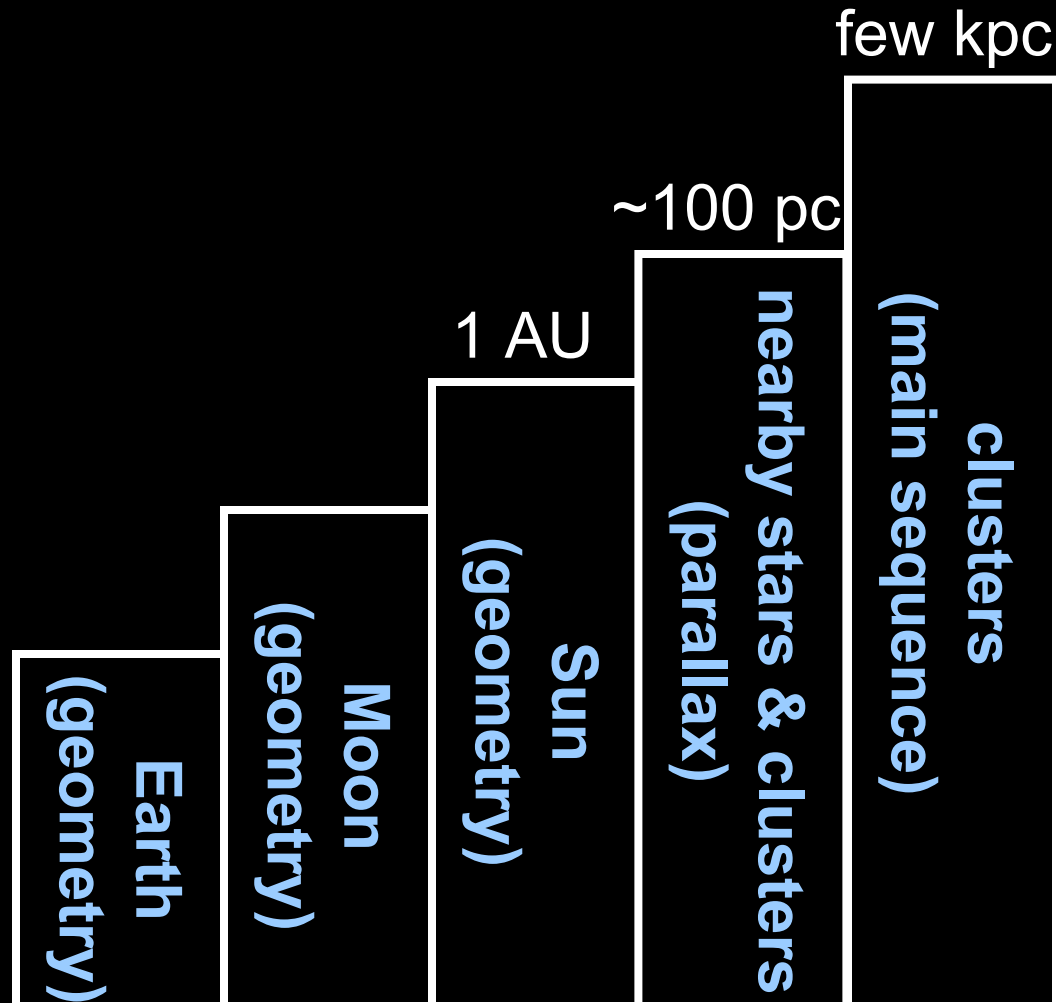


Distances to other clusters

- **Construct H-R diagram for cluster**
- **Measure Δm compared to HR diagram for Hyades**
- **Compute distance in terms of distance to Hyades**
- **How far can you go?**
- **Say most distant open observable cluster is Lastades**



The Cosmological Distance Ladder



- Main sequence stars are not extremely bright...
we need brighter “standard candle”

$$\text{Intensity} = \frac{\text{Luminosity}}{4\pi R^2}$$

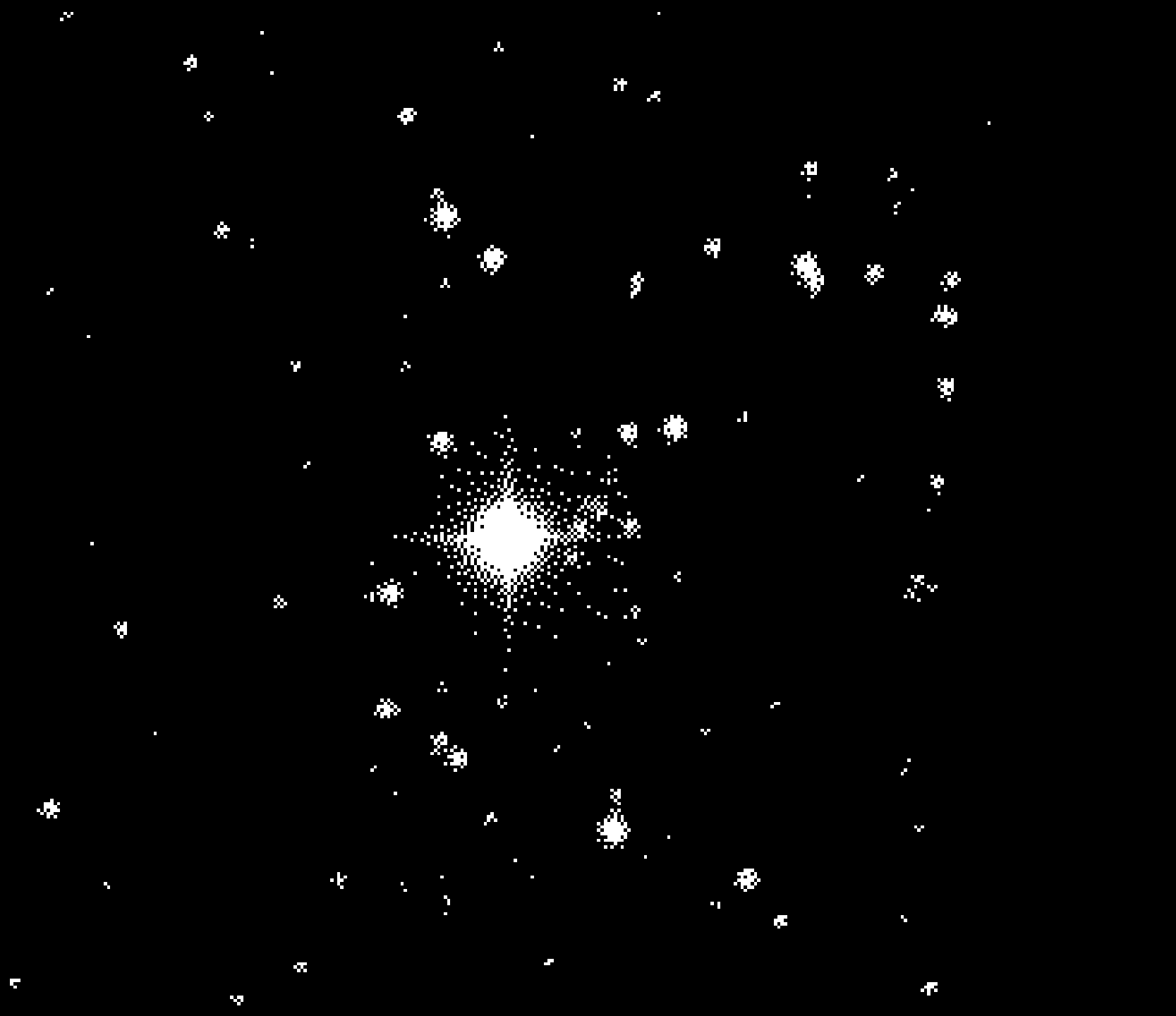
They (appear to) move

They have different apparent brightness

They have different colors

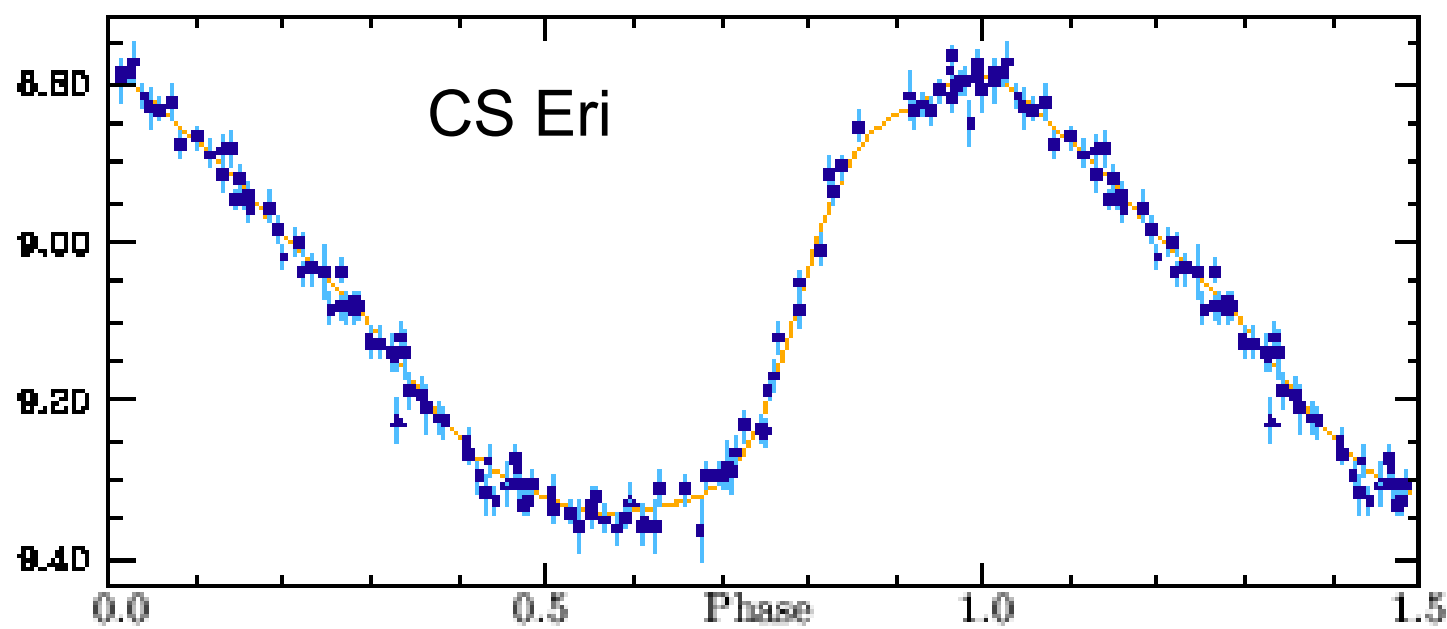
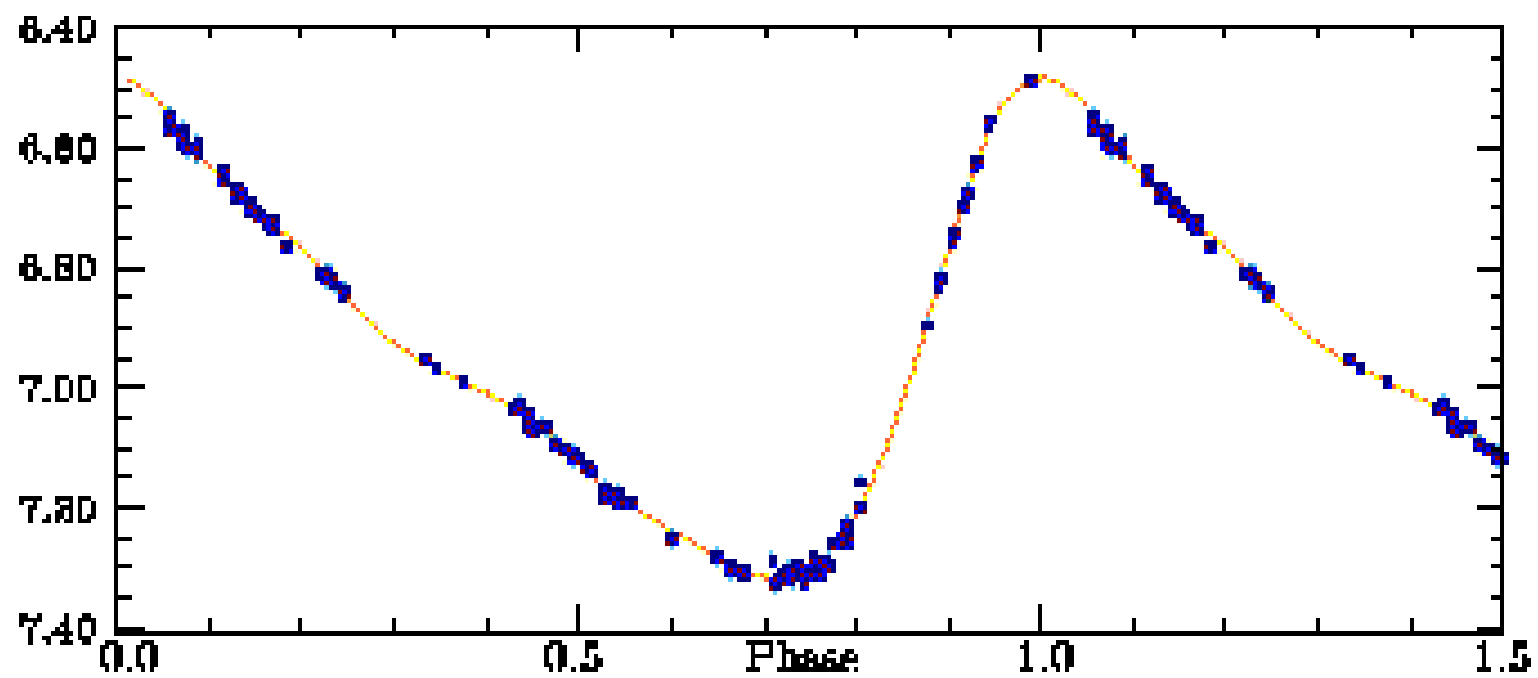
They change in brightness

RR Lyrae Stars



RR Lyrae Stars

- Class named after a particular star: RR Lyrae
- Compared to the sun
 - half the mass
 - older than sun
 - hotter
 - expended hydrogen ... burning helium to carbon
 - pulsates
- Changes brightness with regular period of days
- Luminosity determined by size & temperature
 - for same temperature: larger → more luminous
 - for same size: hotter → more luminous
- Shrink → compressional heating → more luminous

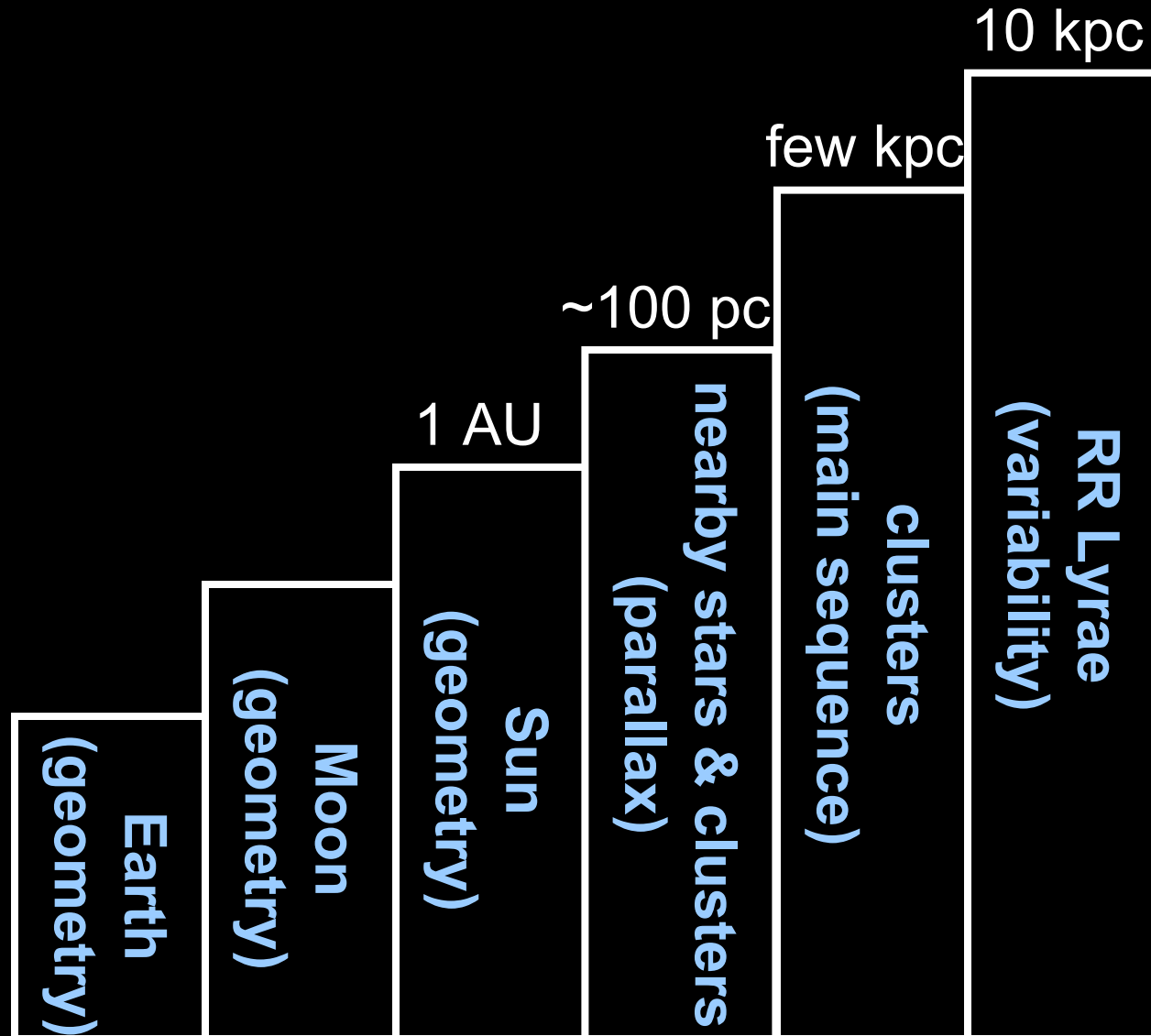


- Main sequence stars are not extremely bright... we need brighter “standard candle”

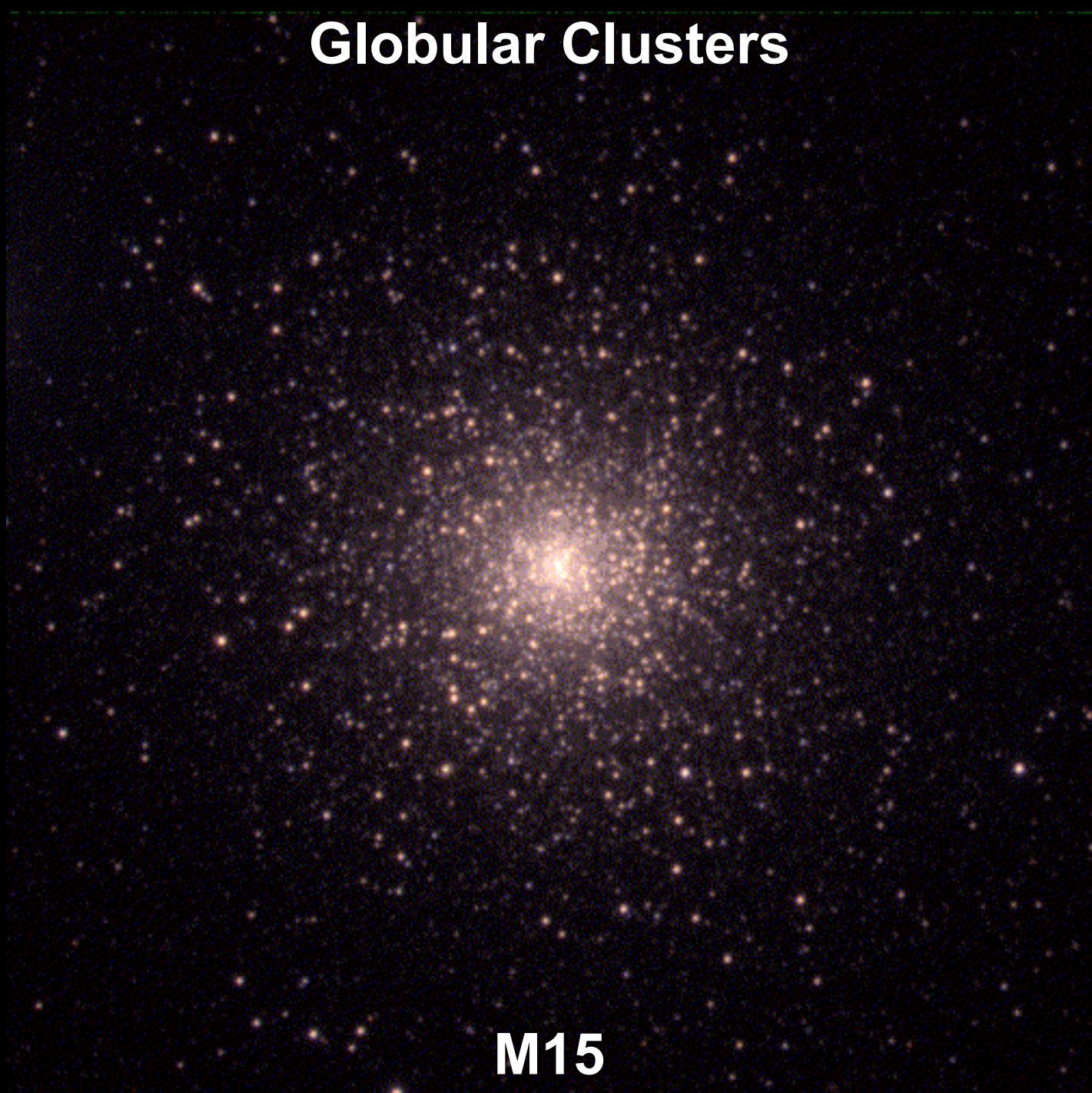
$$\text{Intensity} = \frac{\text{Luminosity}}{4\pi R^2}$$

- **RR Lyrae** stars found in distant clusters we know the distance to via H-R fitting.
- RR Lyrae stars are identified because their light output changes regularly on a time scale of half to one day.
- They are brighter than the sun by about a factor of 100 and are standard candles. Can see farther away and use as standard candle.

The Cosmological Distance Ladder



Globular Clusters



M15

- Need brighter “standard candle”

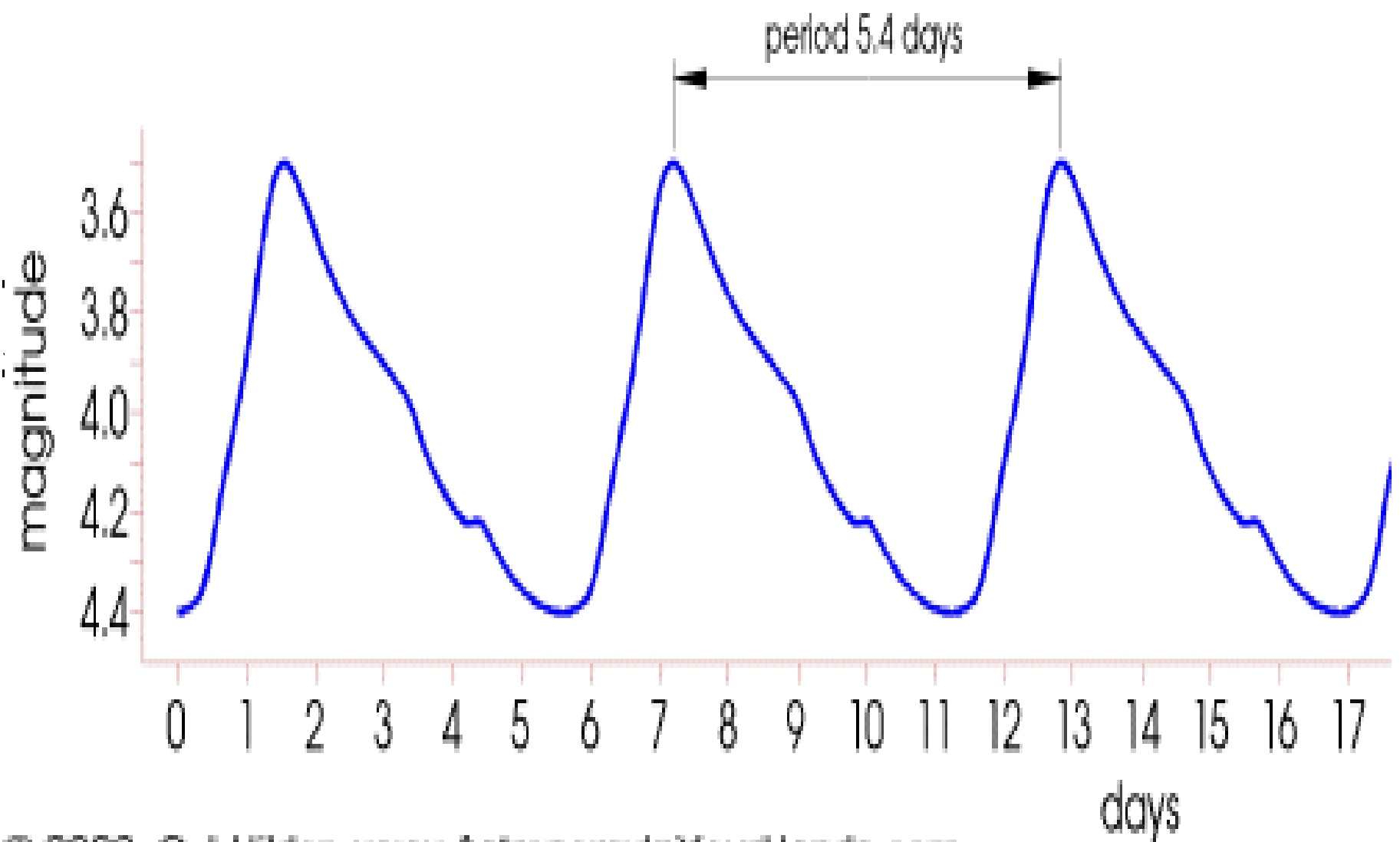
$$\text{Intensity} = \frac{\text{Luminosity}}{4\pi R^2}$$

- Other variable stars are brighter: **Cepheid Stars**
(Polaris is a Cepheid)
- Cepheid stars are identified because their light output changes regularly on a time scale of weeks to months. They are very rare.
- They are brighter than the sun by about a factor of 10,000 but are not standard candles.

Cepheid Variable Stars

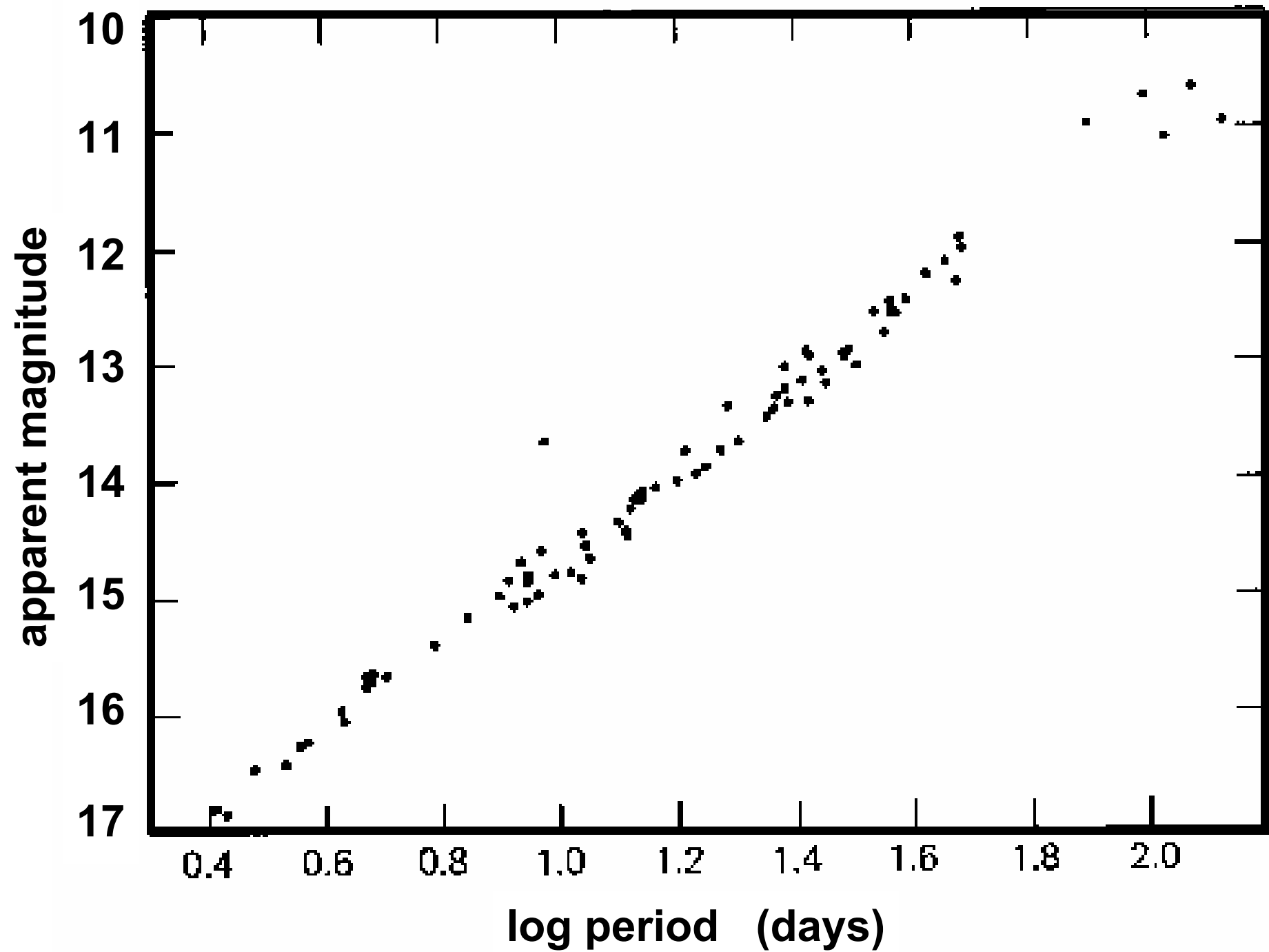
Henrietta Leavitt
1868 - 1921

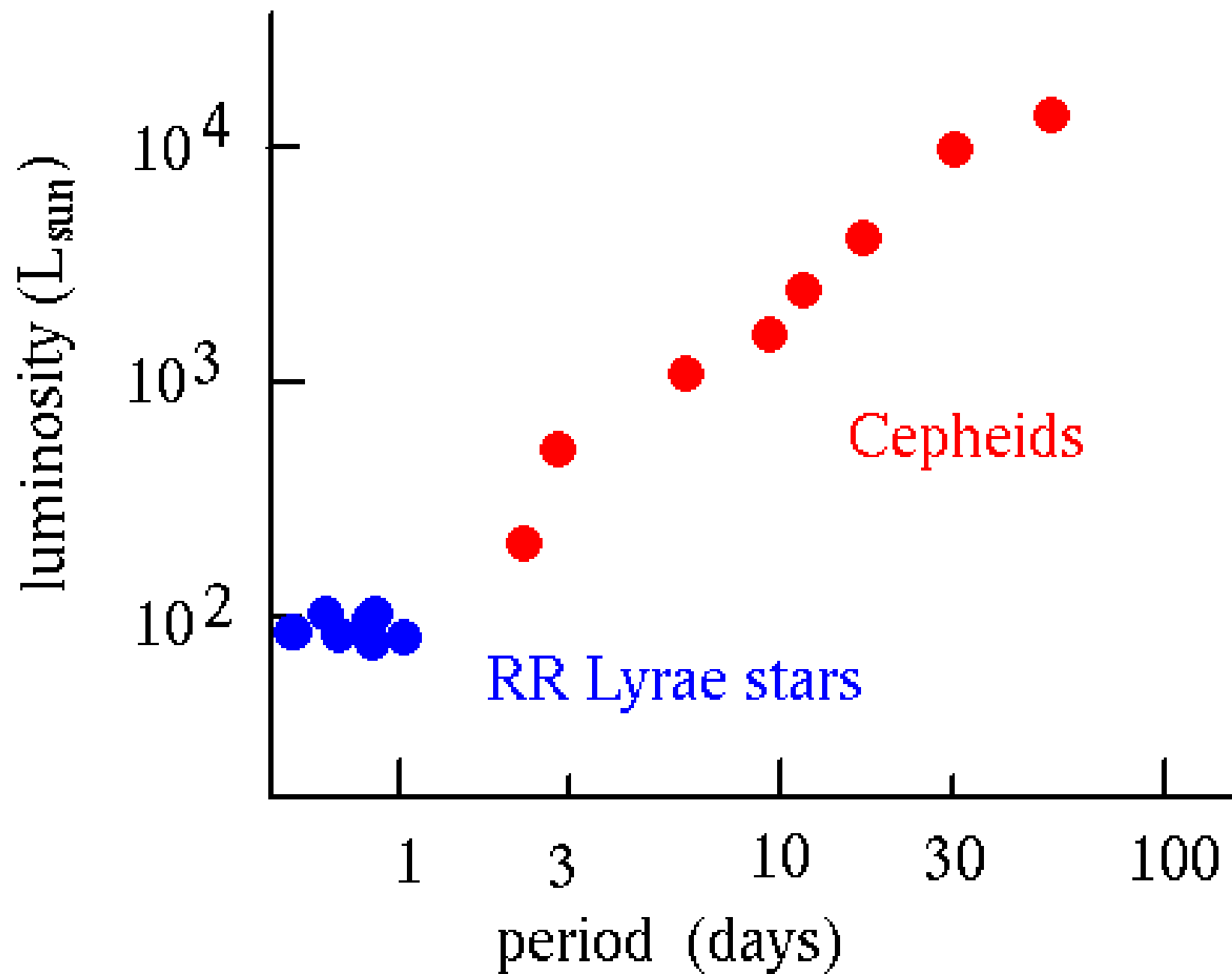




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Light curve of Delta Cephei





Cepheids as distance indicators

For cepheids of known distance

- Measure apparent magnitude of the cepheids

$$I = \frac{L}{4\pi R^2} \rightarrow \text{know } L$$

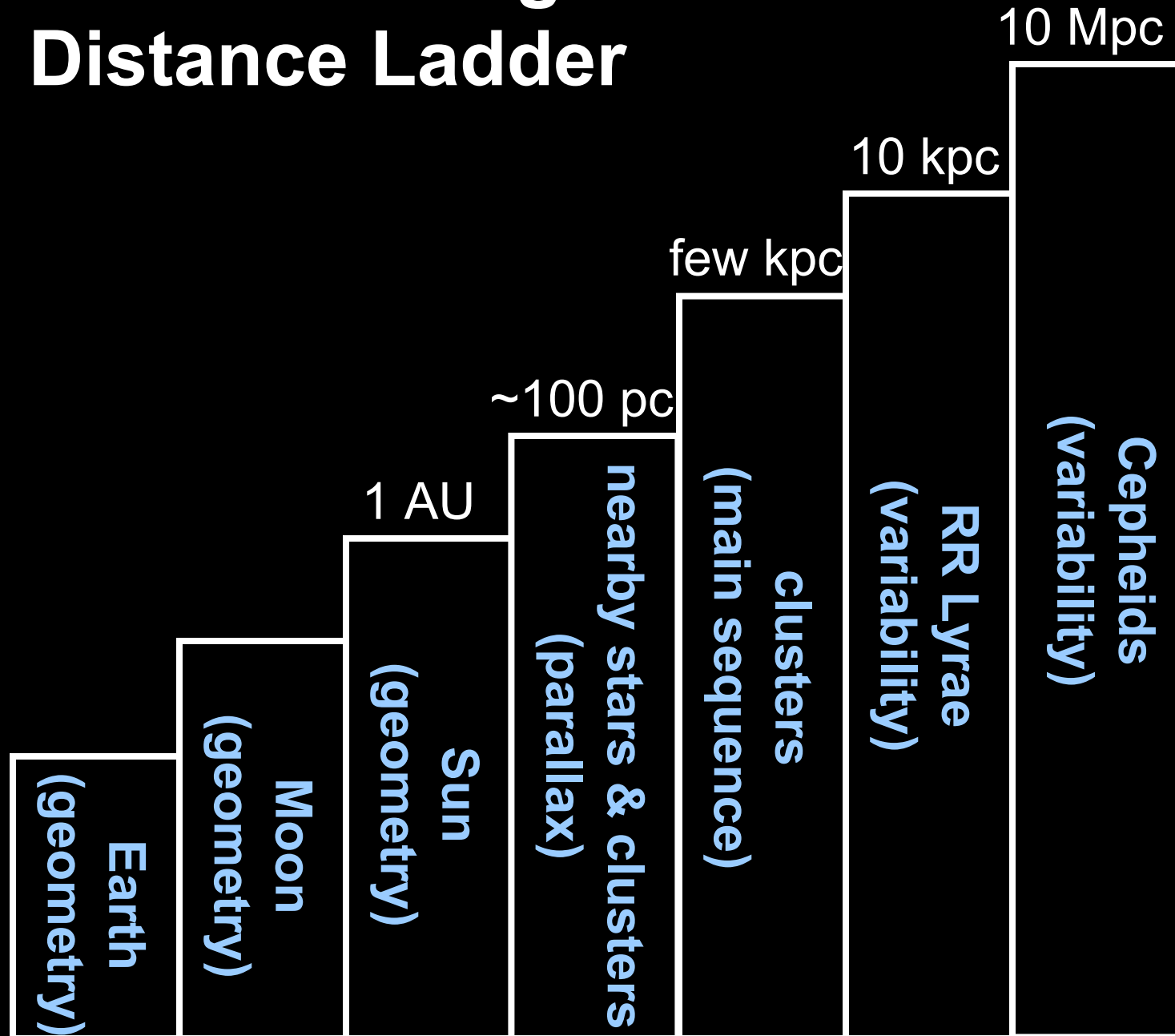
- Measure period of the cepheids
- Calibrate (if know period know L)

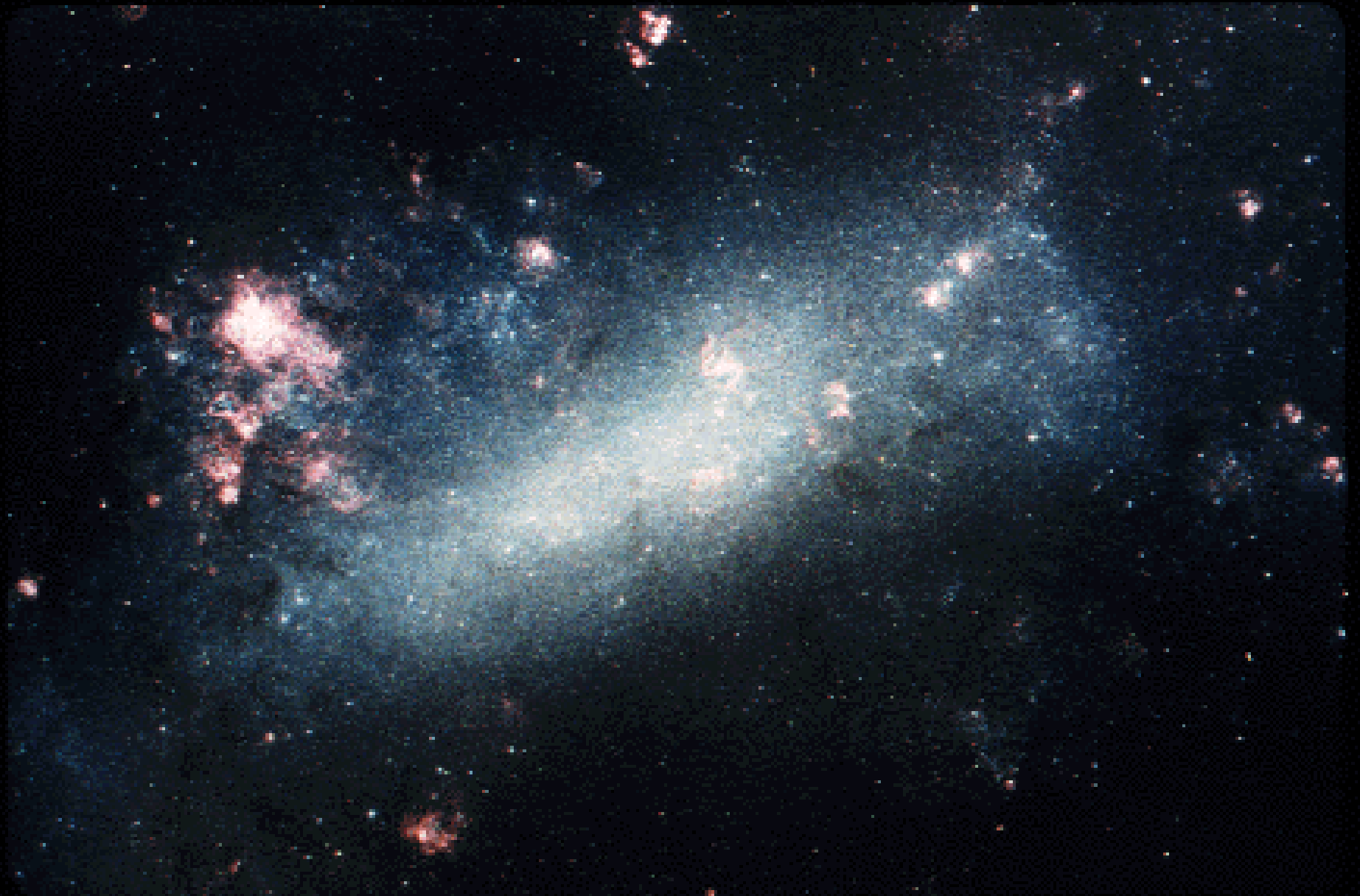
For cepheids of unknown distance

- Measure period....know L
- Measure apparent magnitude

$$I = \frac{L}{4\pi R^2} \rightarrow \text{know } R$$

The Cosmological Distance Ladder

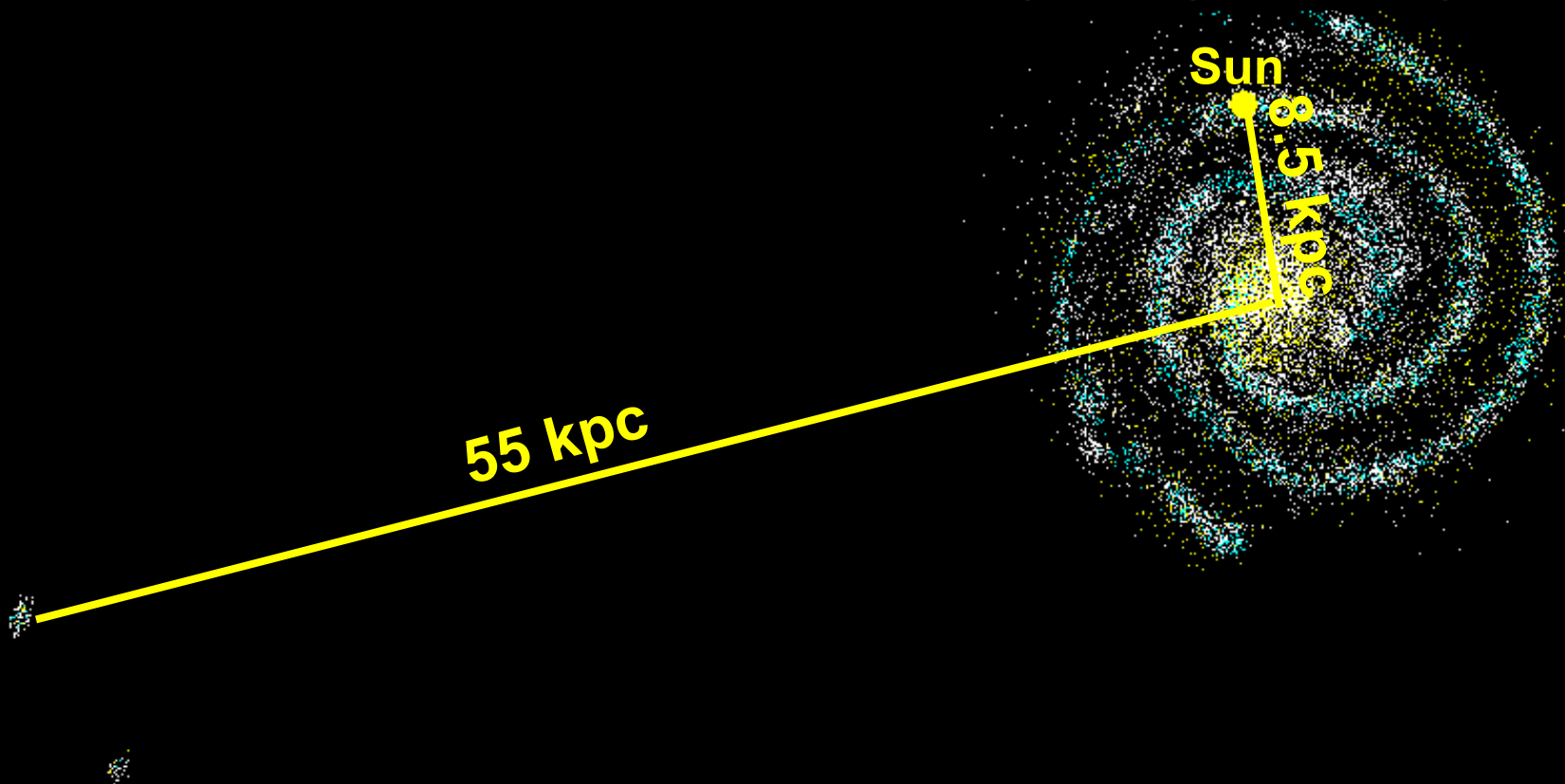




Large Magellanic Cloud 100 million stars 55 kpc distant

Milky Way Galaxy

Large and Small
Magellanic Clouds



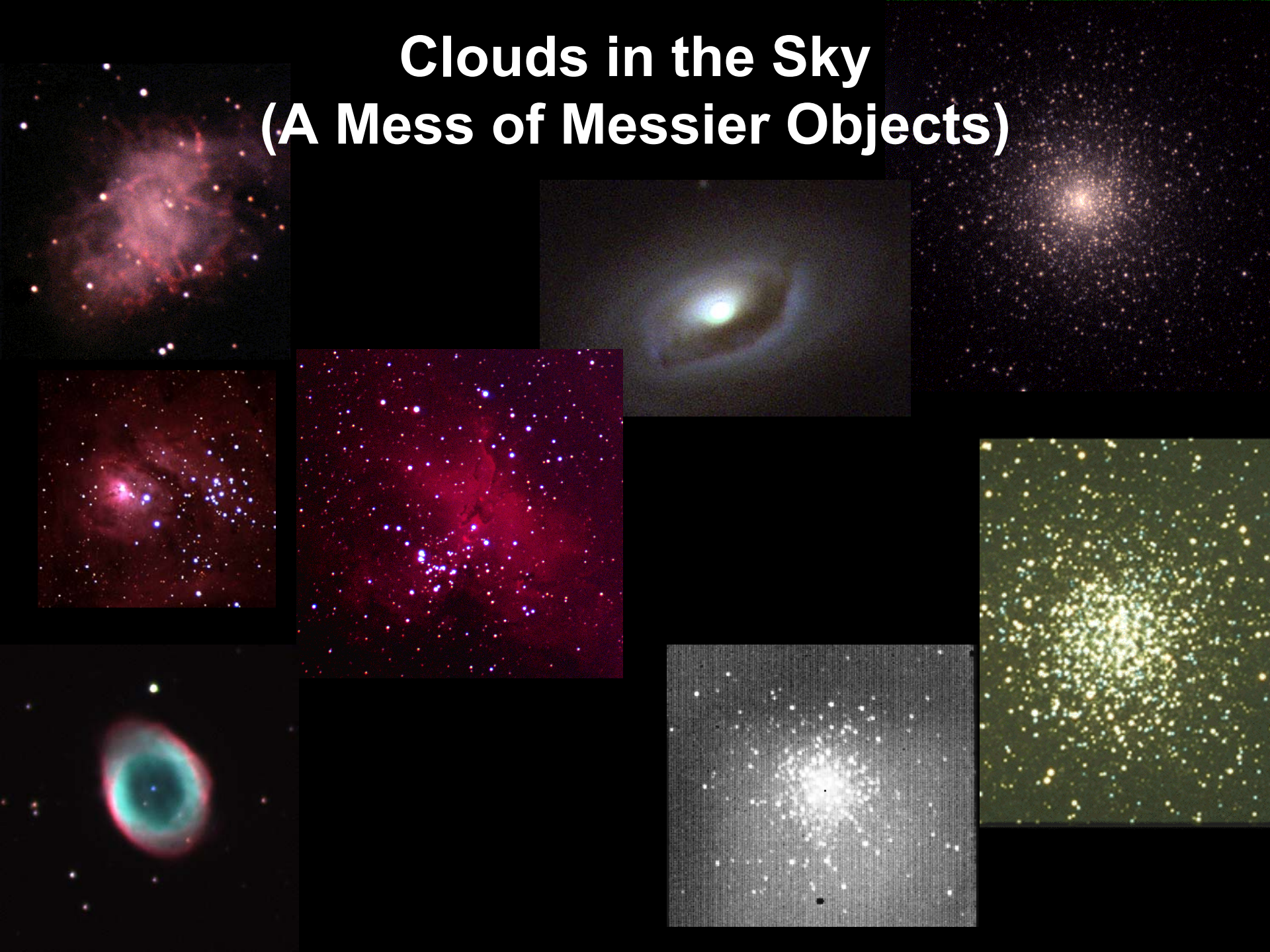
Sun

8.5 kpc

55 kpc

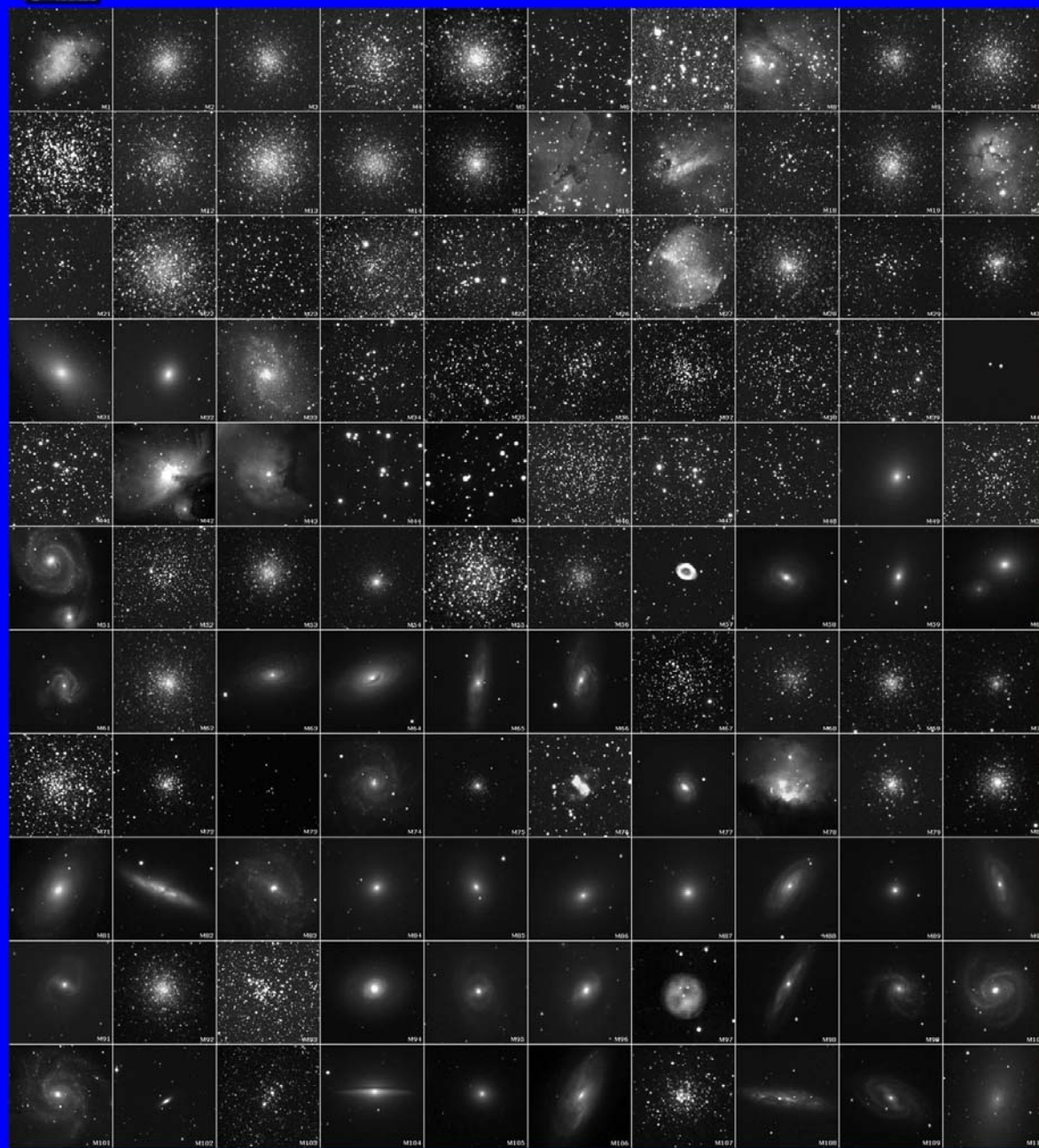
Clouds in the Sky

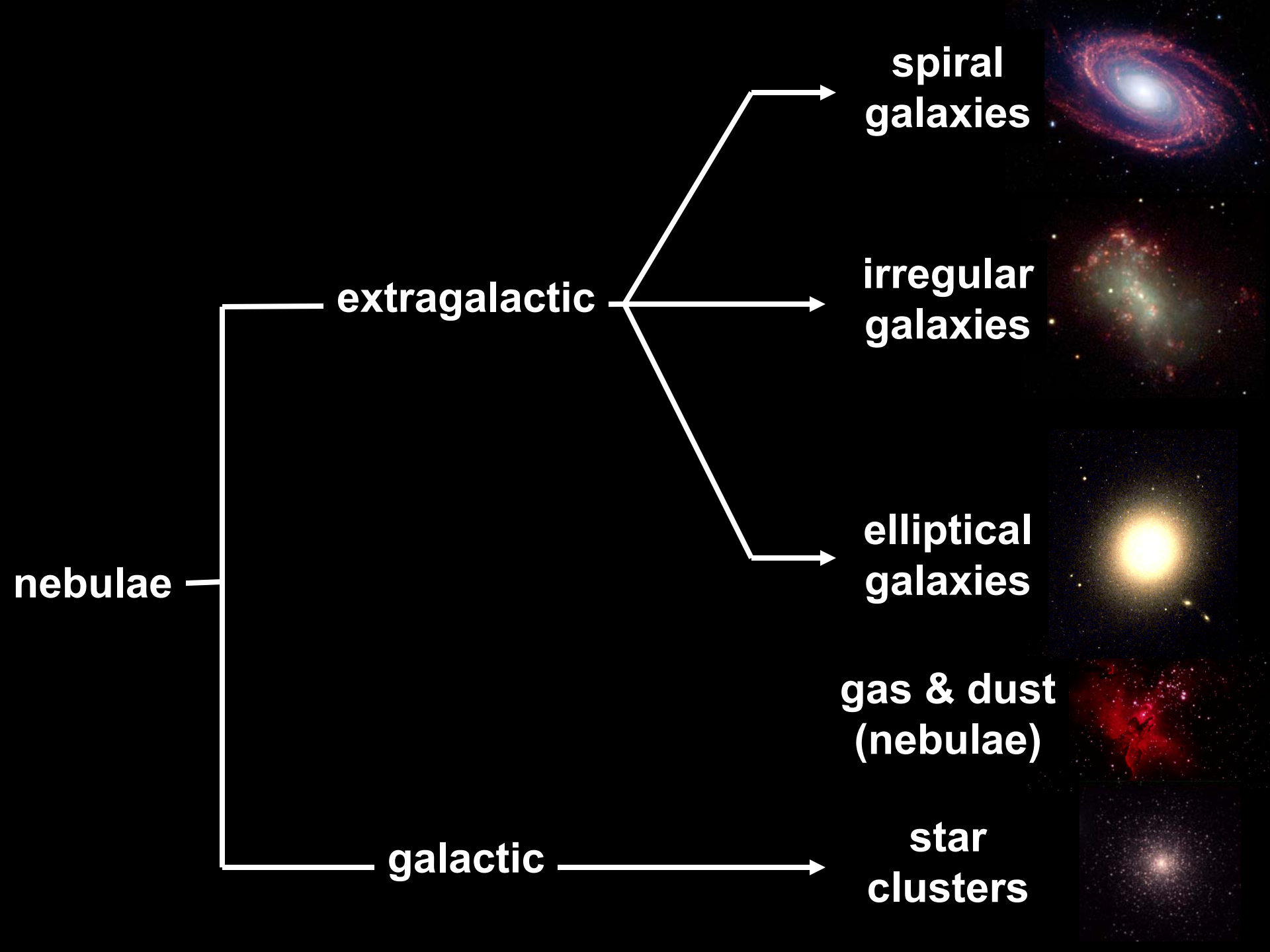
(A Mess of Messier Objects)



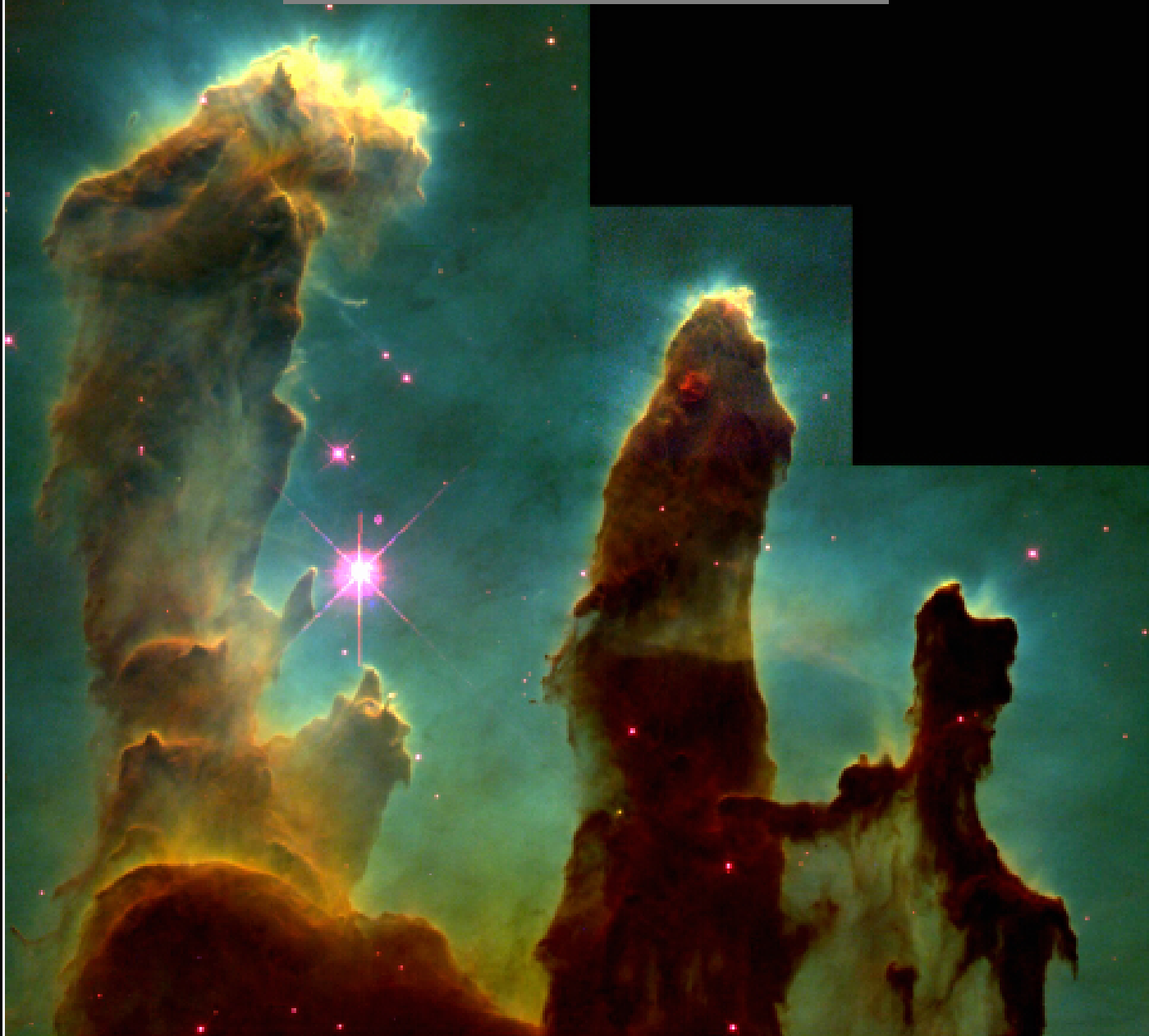


MESSIER CATALOGUE





Eagle Nebula

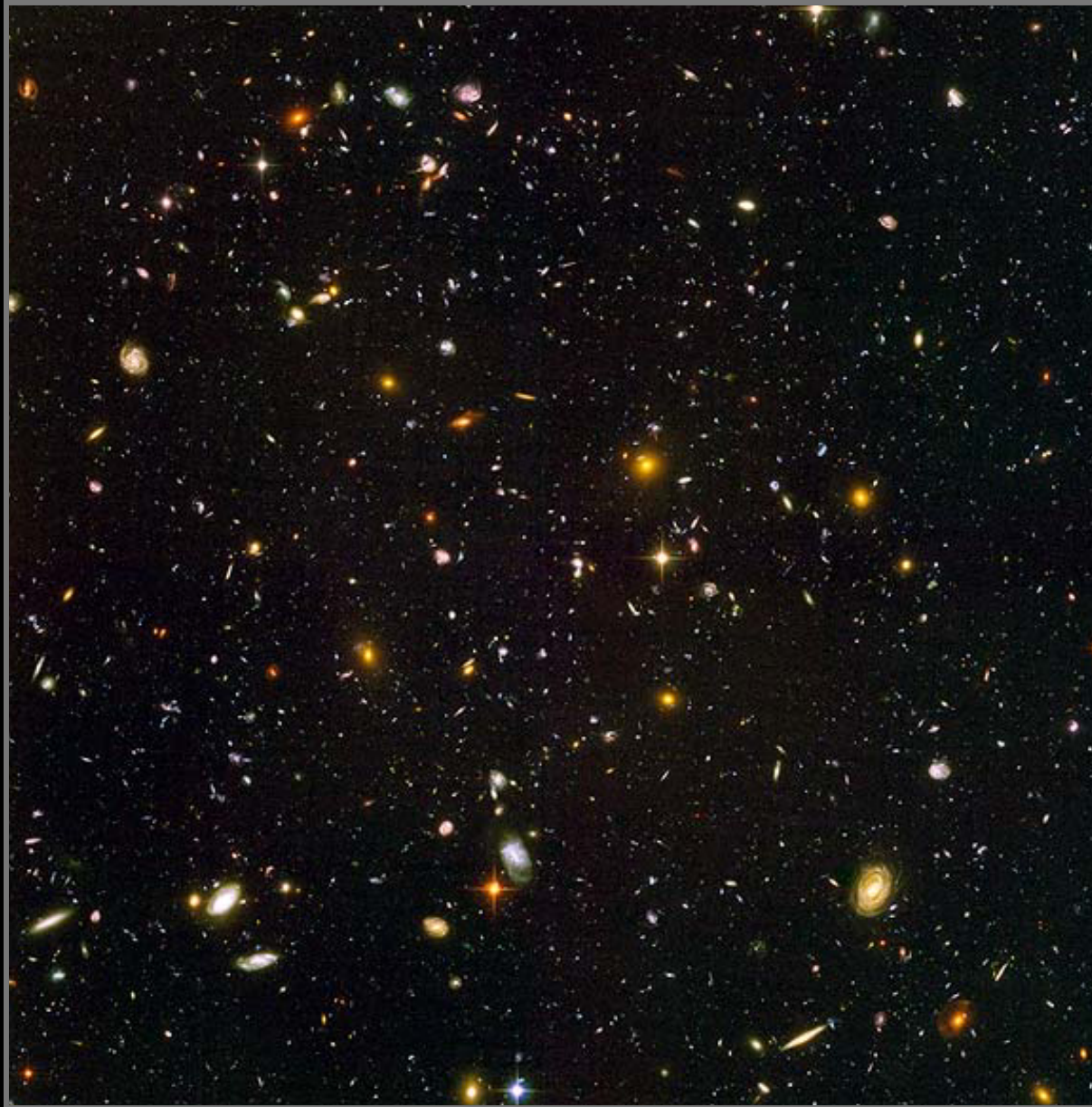


The composition of the universe

Hubble Ultradeep Field

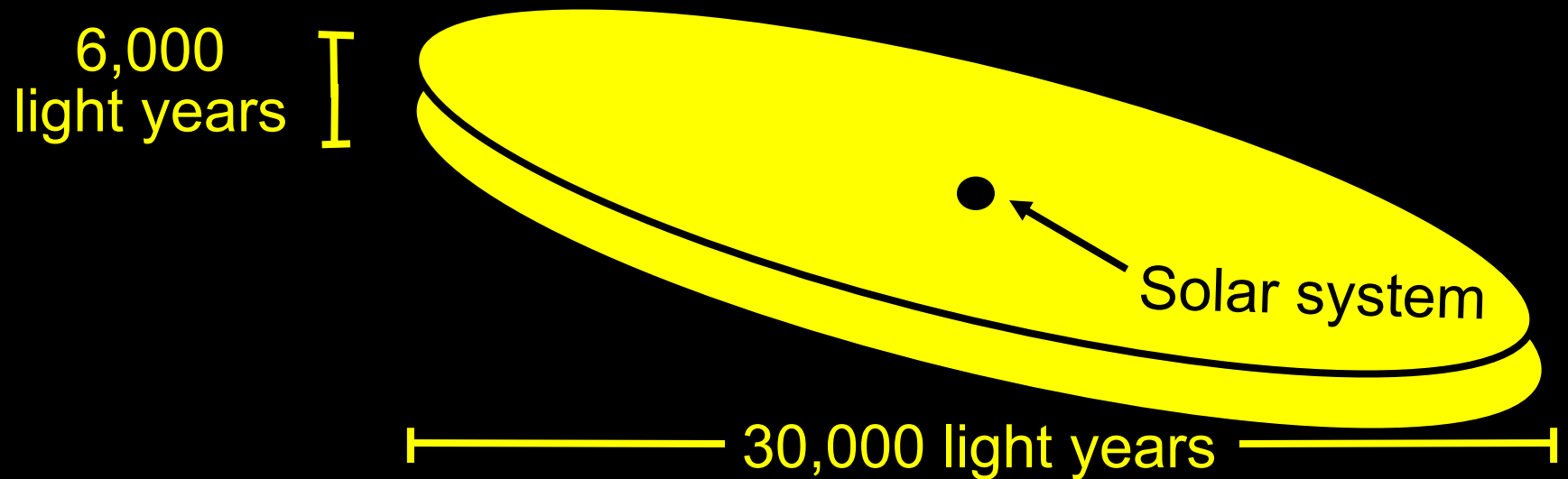
10,000 here →

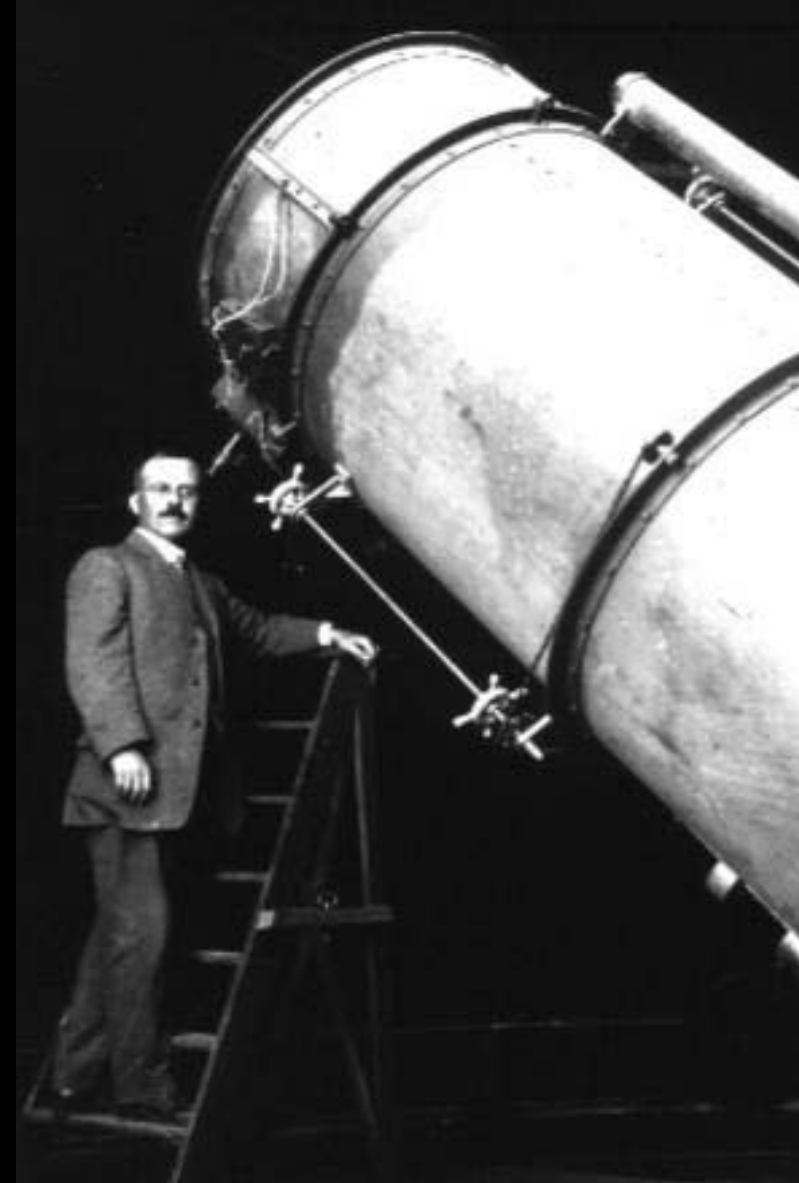
50 thousand million
over entire sky



A view of the universe, circa 1906 A.D.

Kapteyn Universe





Heber Curtis
1872 - 1942



Harlow Shapley
1885 - 1972

Talking points in the Great Debate

1. Rotation of M101

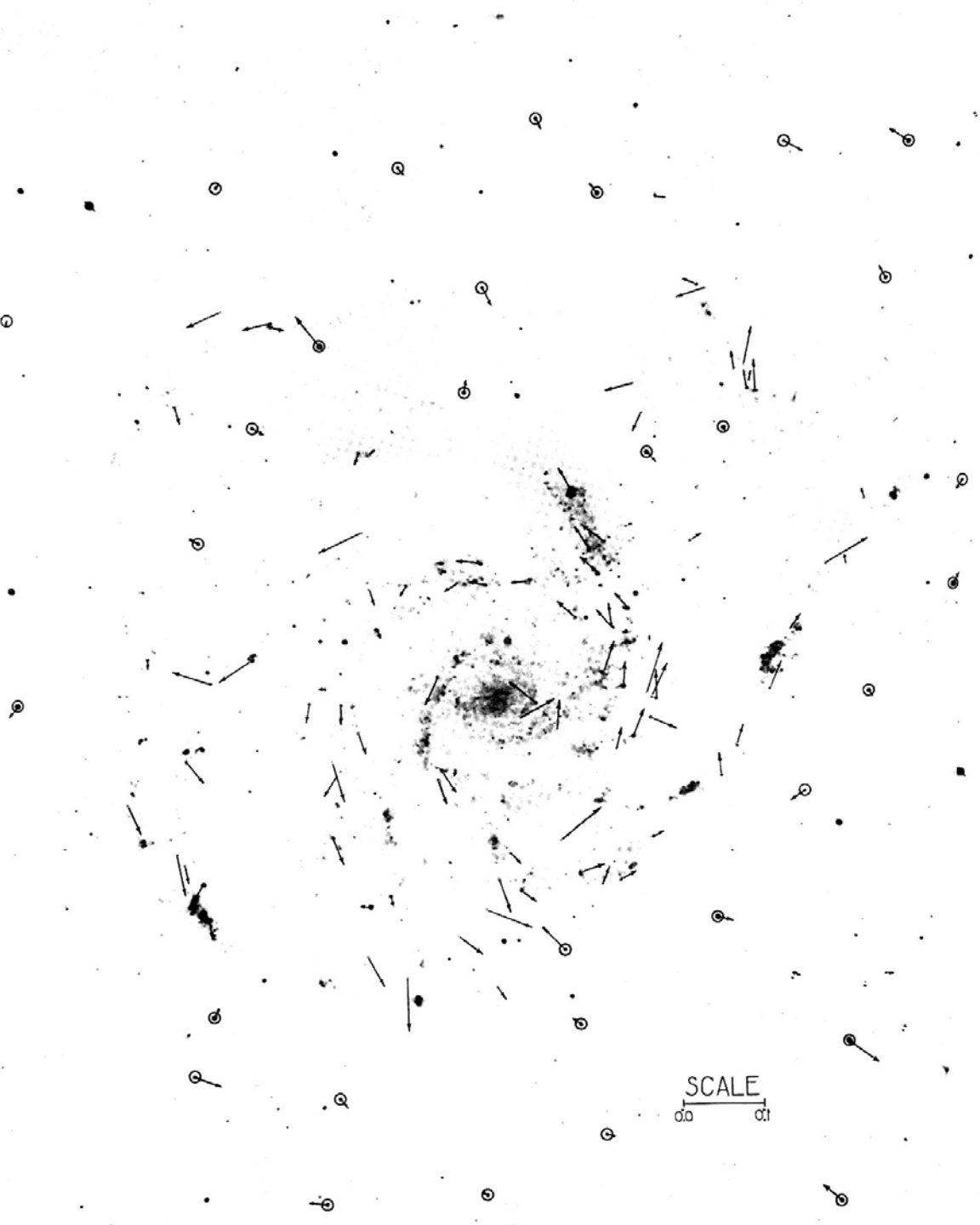
2. Variable stars

3. Stars or gas

4. Spatial distribution & velocity



M101



**Adriaan van Maanen
1916**

M101

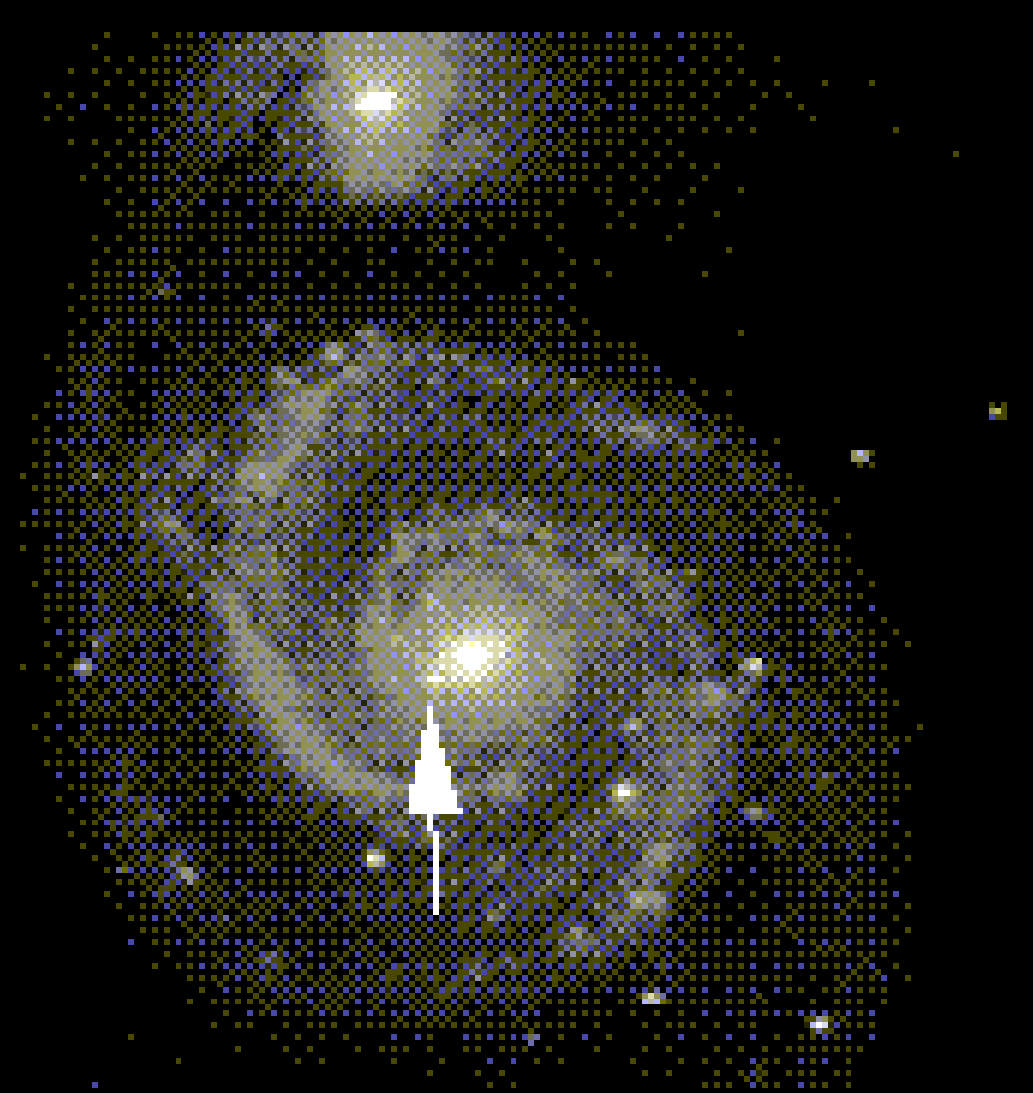
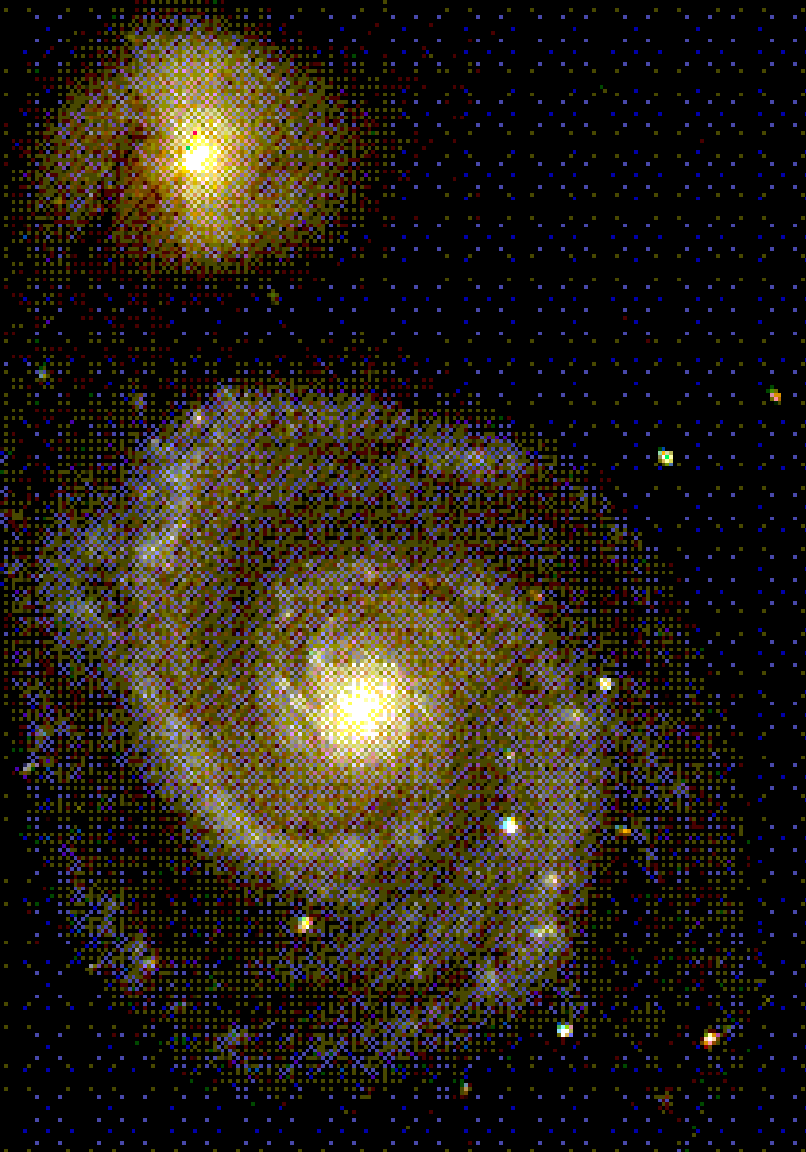
Talking points in the Great Debate

1. Rotation of M101

2. Variable stars

3. Stars or gas

4. Spatial distribution & velocity



Supernova in M51

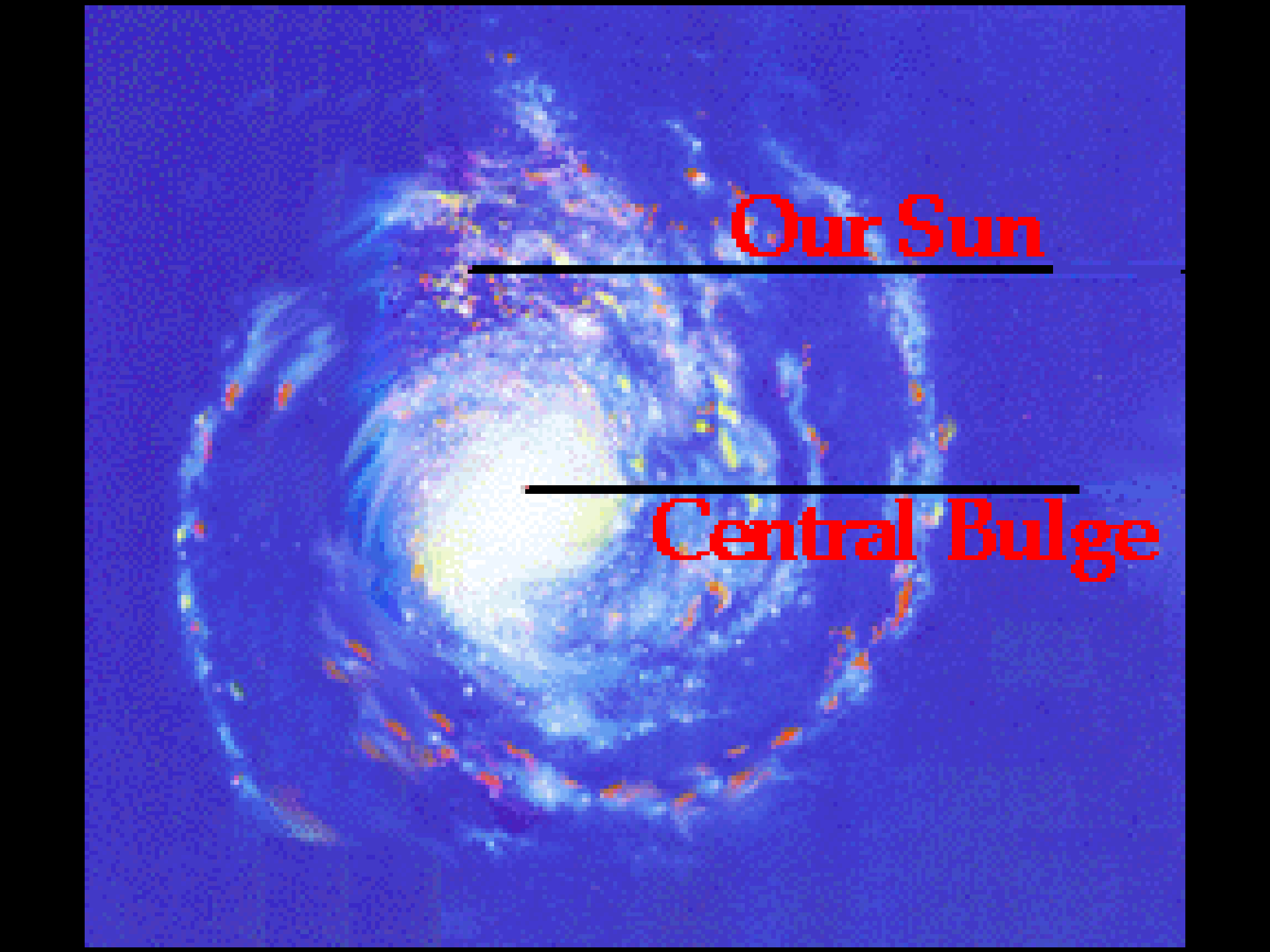
Talking points in the Great Debate

1. Rotation of M101

2. Variable stars

3. Stars or gas

4. Spatial distribution & velocity



Our Sun

Central Bulge

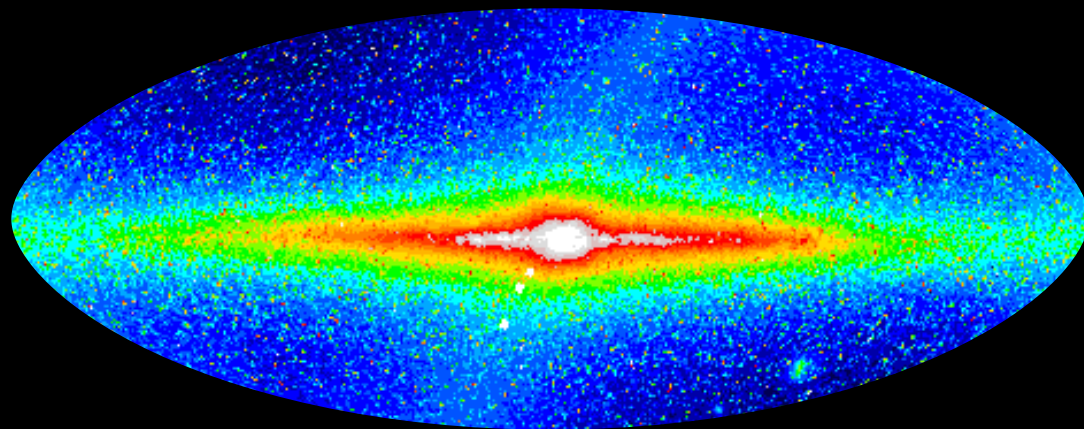
Talking points in the Great Debate

1. Rotation of M101

2. Variable stars

3. Stars or gas

4. Spatial distribution & velocity



Dust in the galactic plane



Edwin Hubble
1884 - 1953



University of Chicago 1909 National Champions



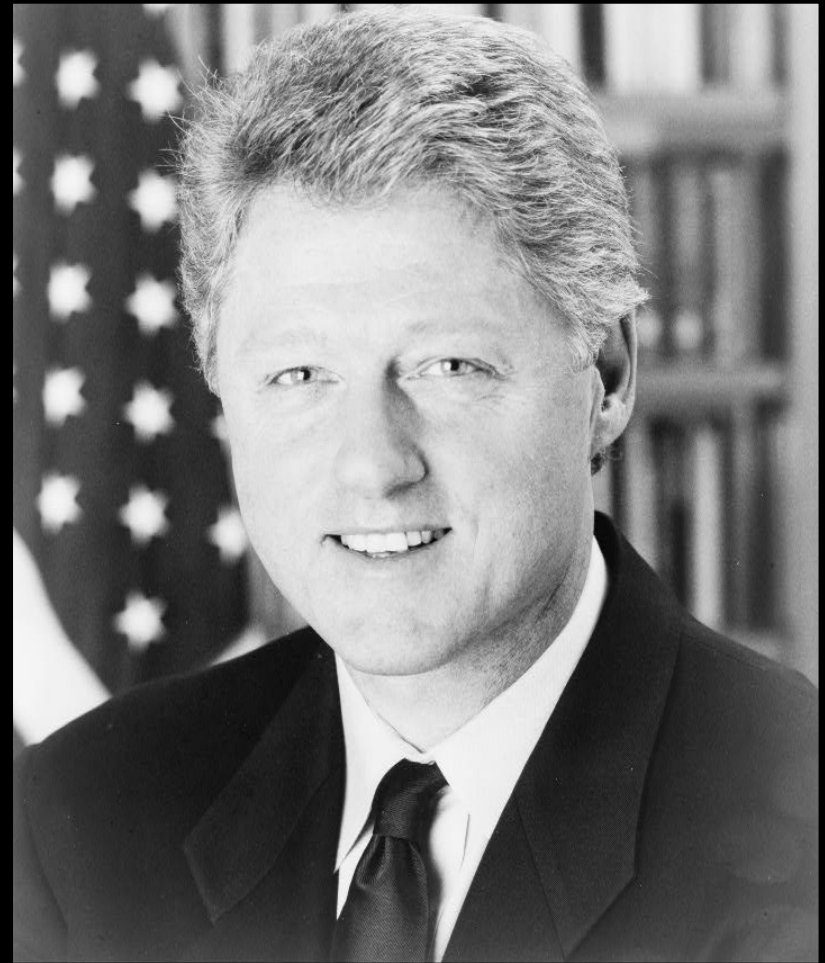
University of Chicago 1909 Big-10 Champions



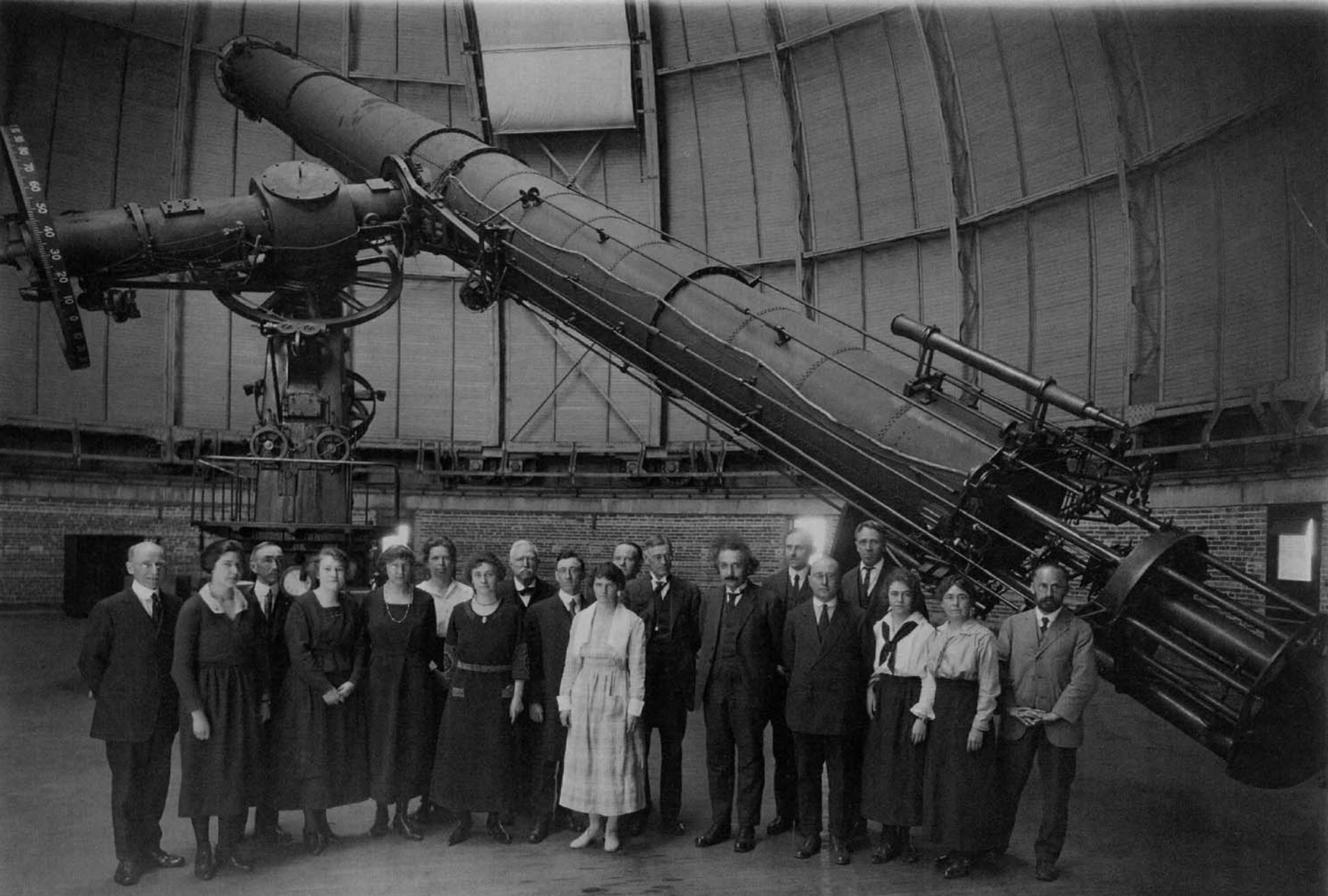
Track Team



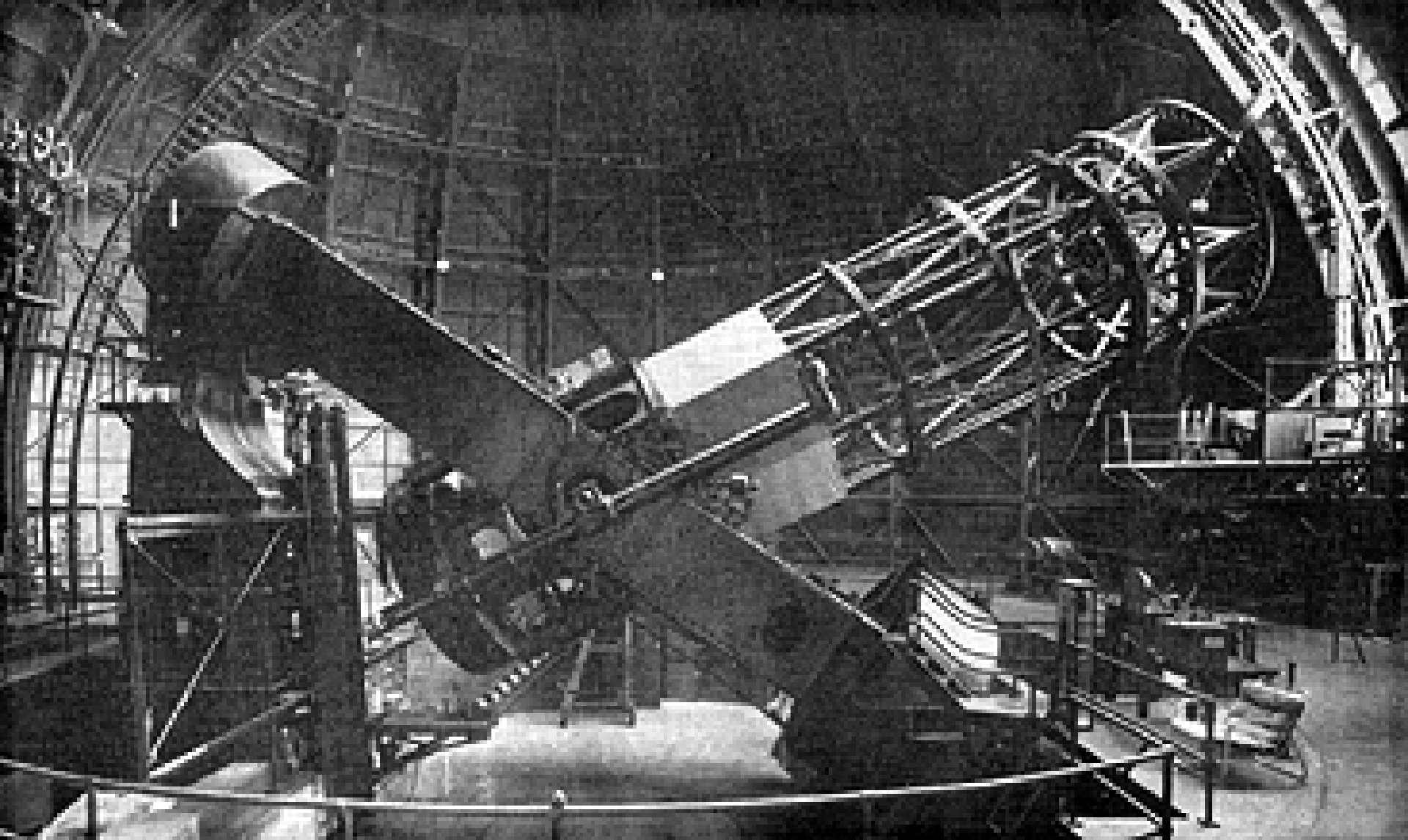
Two famous Rhodes Scholars:



Politics is for the moment; an equation is forever.
A. Einstein



Einstein at Yerkes, May 6, 1921



100-inch Hooker Telescope on Mt. Wilson



Hubble's Hooker Chair

TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



ASTRONOMER HUBBLE

Will Palomar's 200-inch eye see an exploding universe?
(Science)





ANDROMEDA
GALAXY

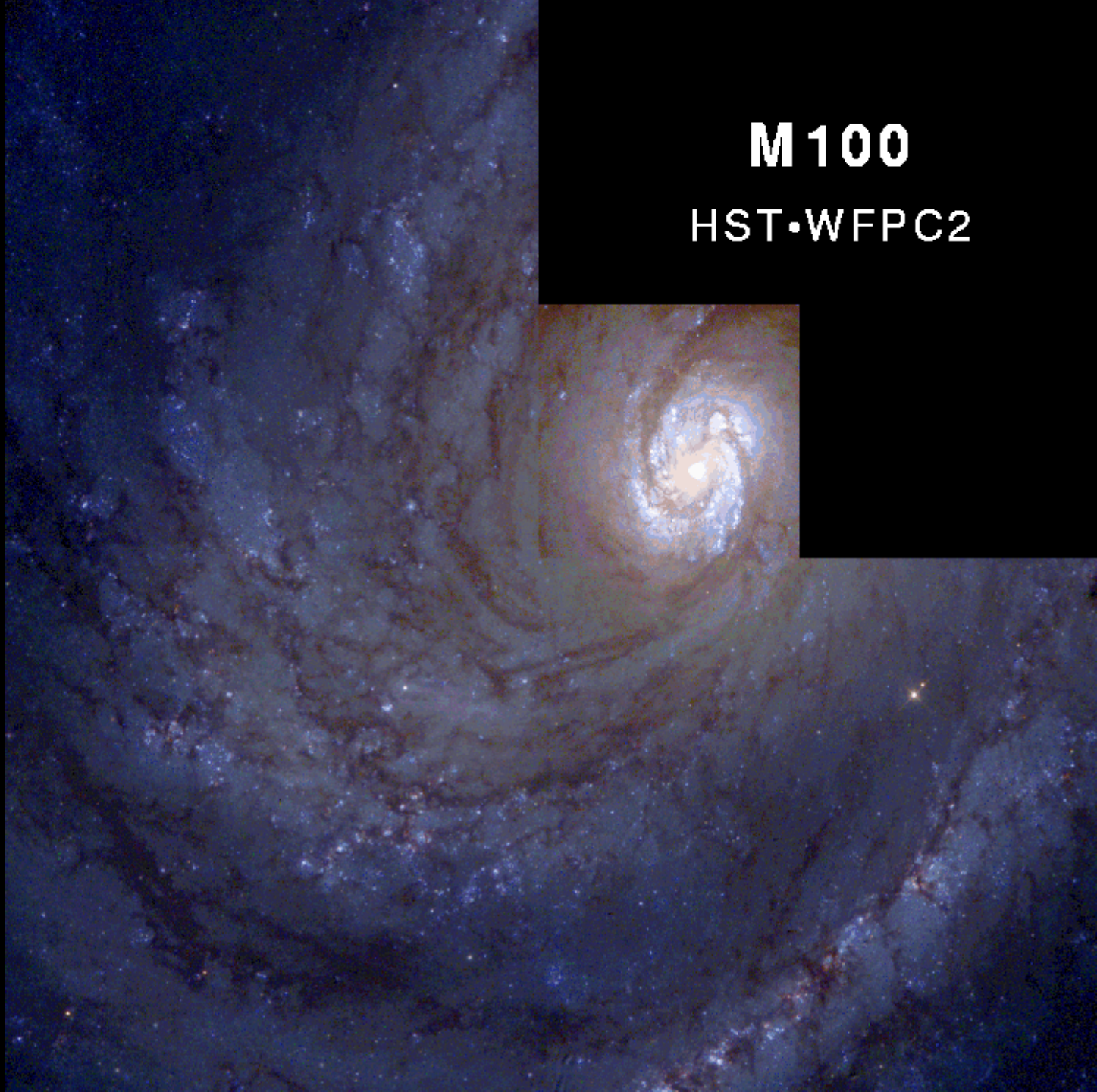
~~N~~
YAR!

6-Oct
1923

N

M100

HST-WFPC2



Cepheid Variable Star in Galaxy M100

HST-WFPC2

April 23

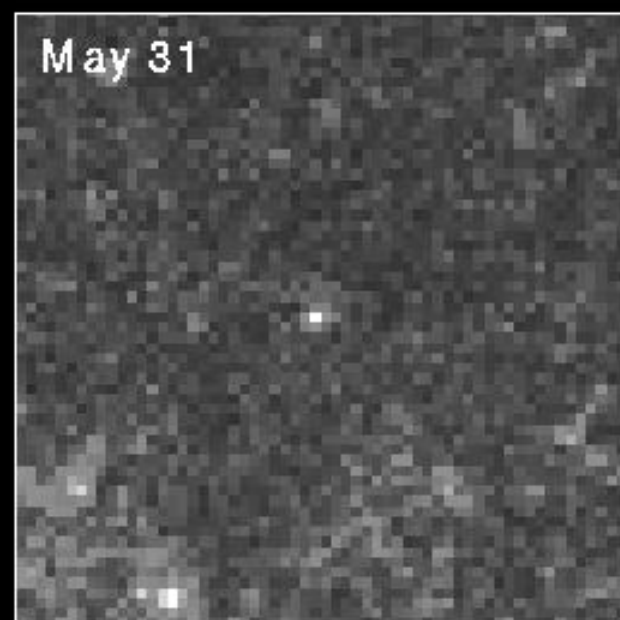
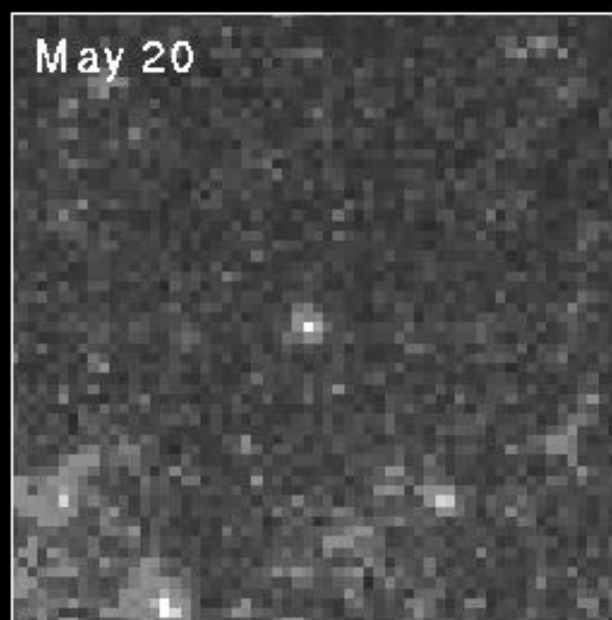
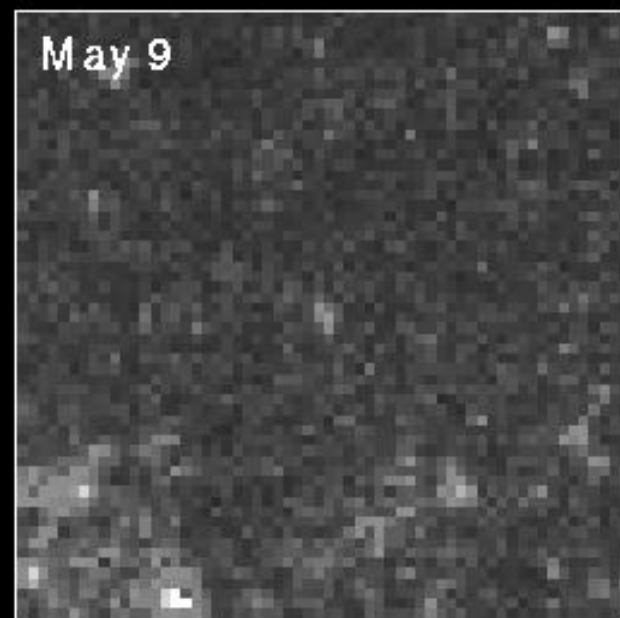
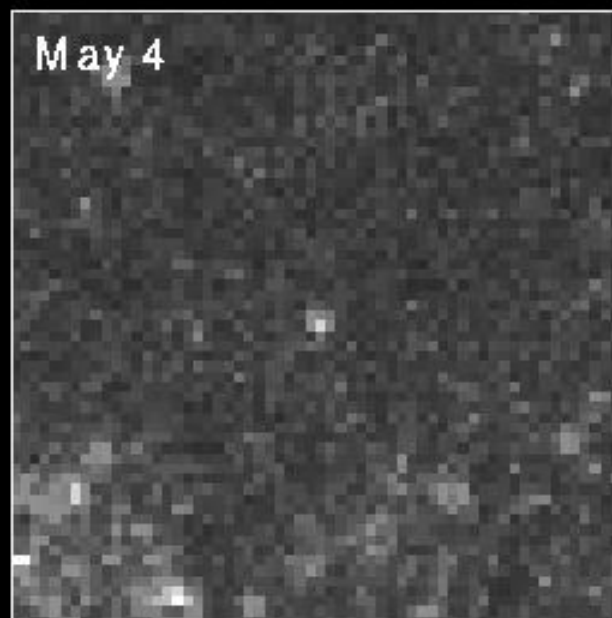
May 4

May 9

May 16

May 20

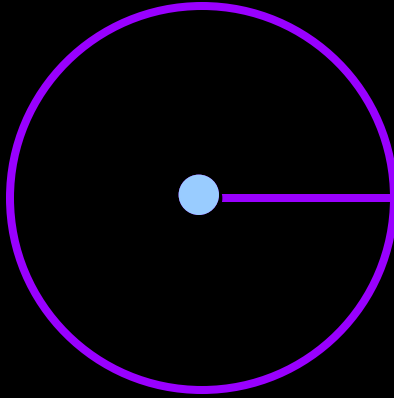
May 31





Rädschäft

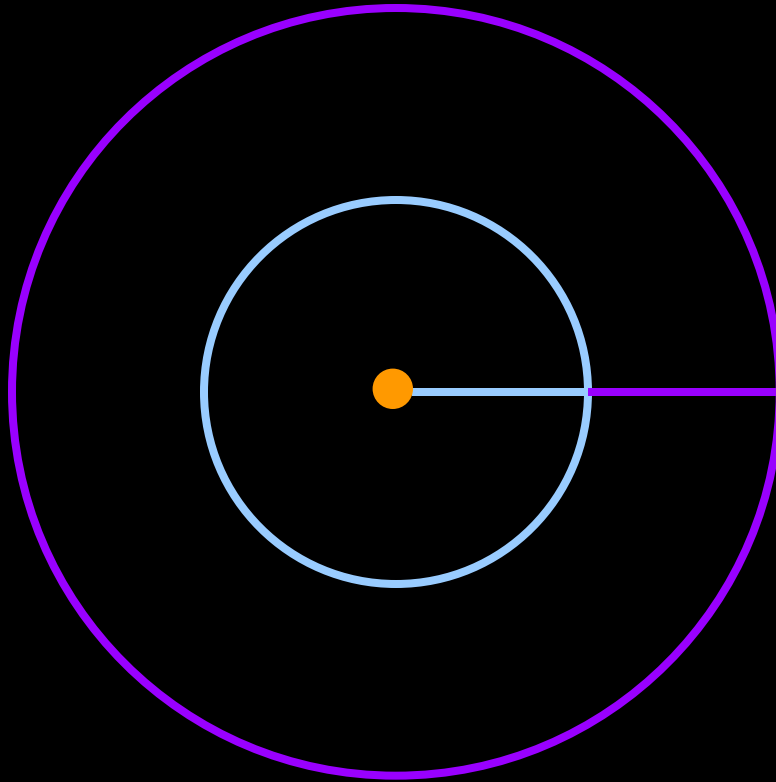
$$t = \frac{r}{c} \Delta t$$

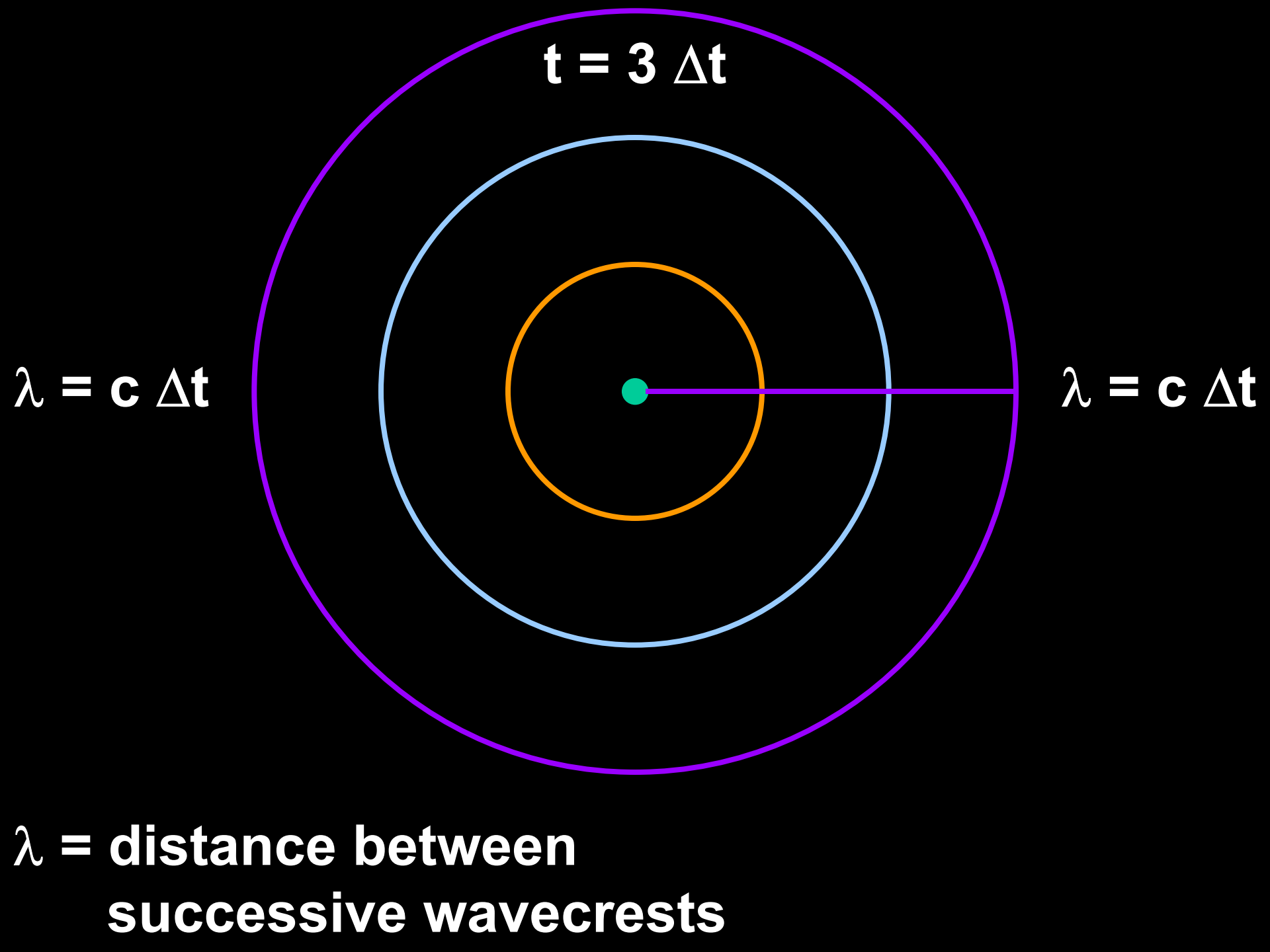


c = velocity of wave

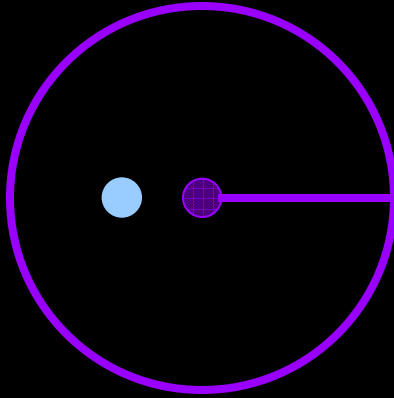
Δt = time difference

$$t = 2 \Delta t$$





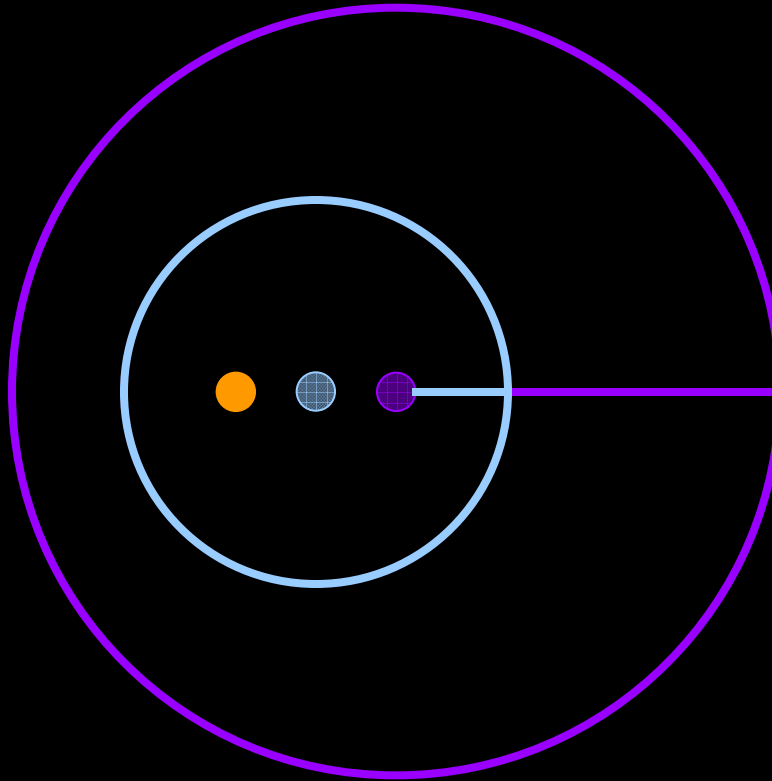
$$\Delta t = \Delta t$$



$$d = v \Delta t$$



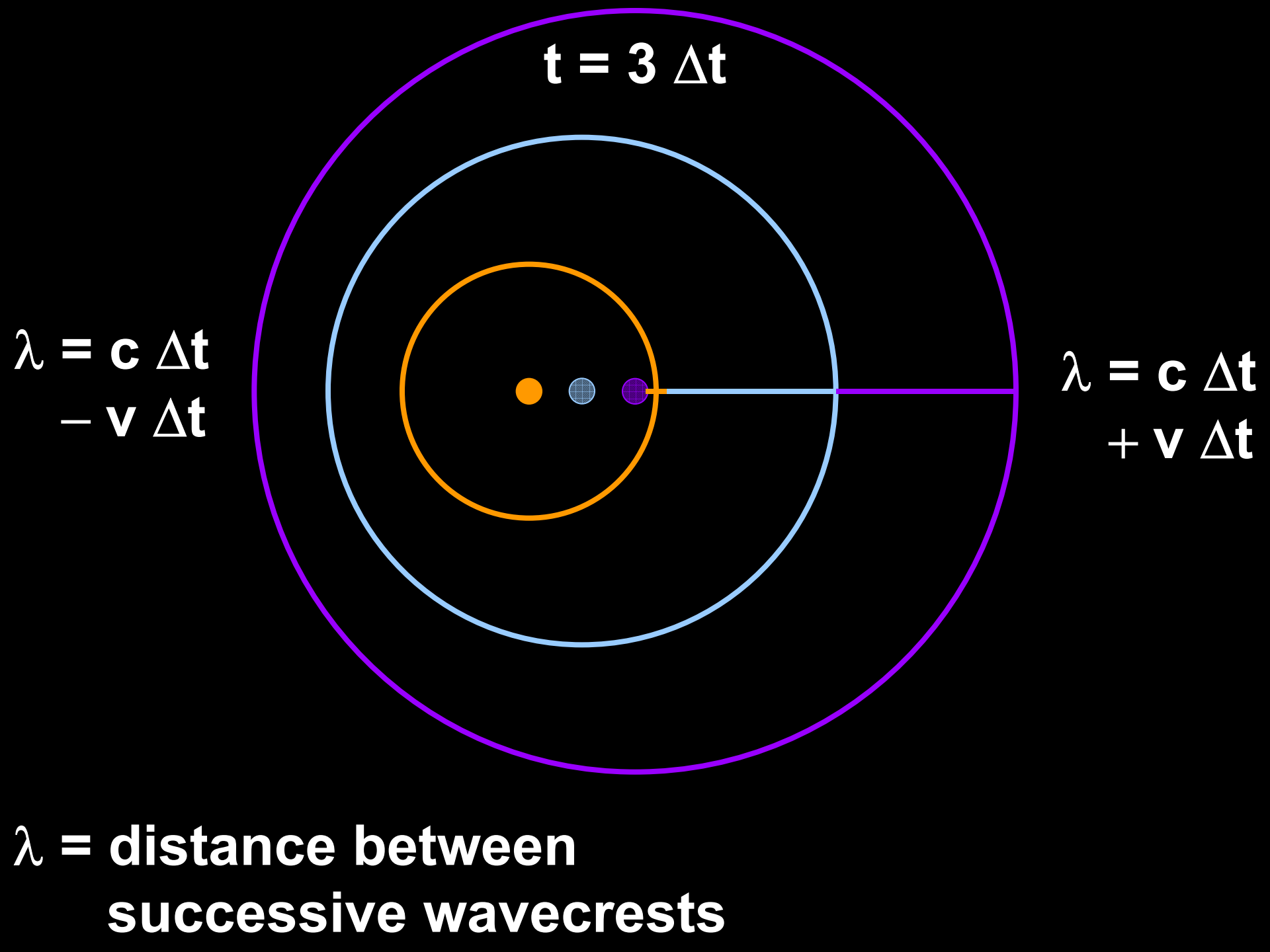
$$t = 2 \Delta t$$



$$d = v \Delta t$$



v



Doppler Shift

$$\lambda_0 = c \Delta t = \text{rest wavelength}$$

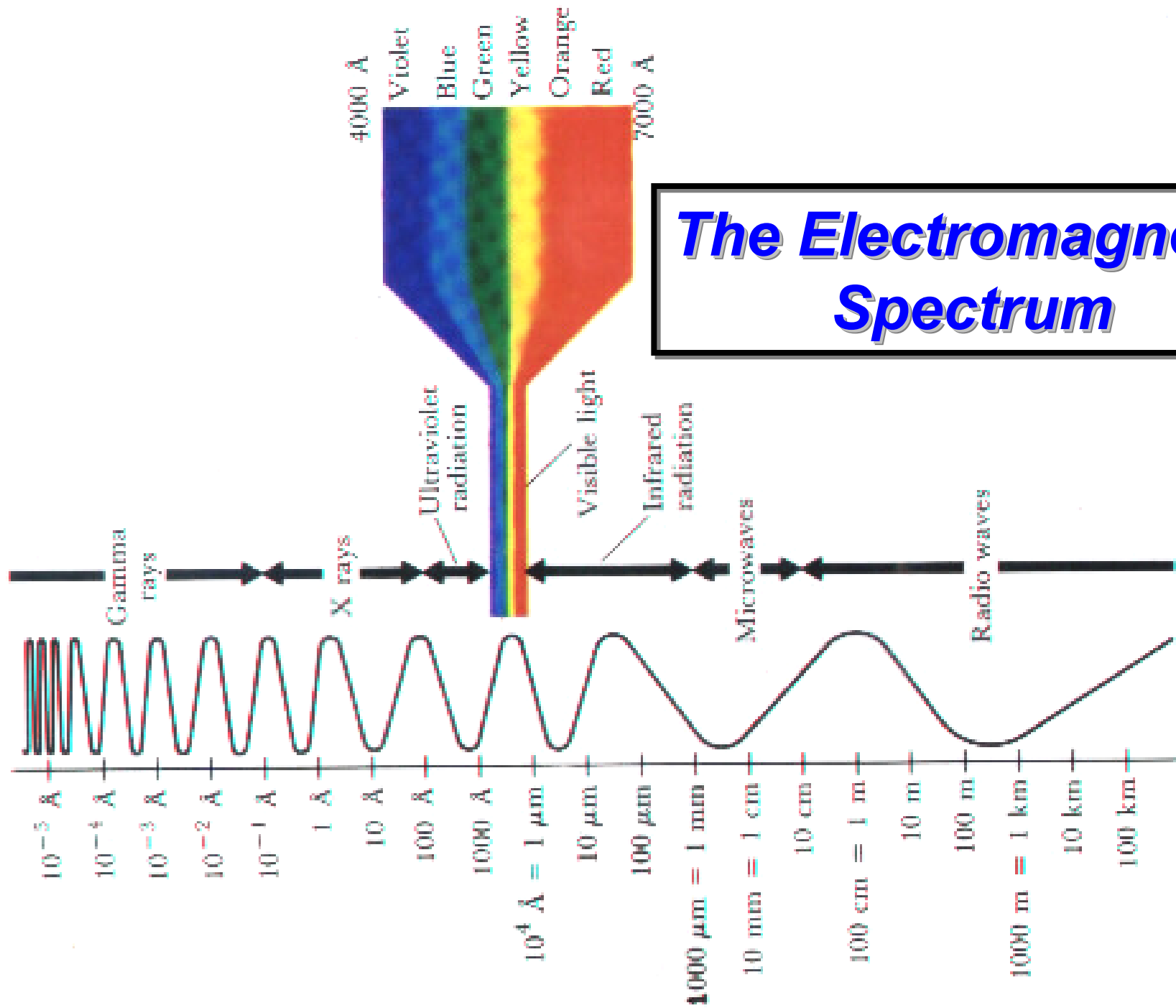
$$\lambda = c \Delta t \pm v \Delta t = \text{detected wavelength}$$

$$c \Delta t = \lambda_0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lambda = \lambda_0 \pm v \Delta t$$

$$\Delta t = \frac{\lambda_0}{c} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \lambda = \lambda_0 \pm \frac{v}{c} \lambda_0$$

$\lambda = \lambda_0 \left(1 \pm \frac{v}{c} \right)$	+ \rightarrow receding	(longer λ)
	- \rightarrow approaching	(shorter λ)

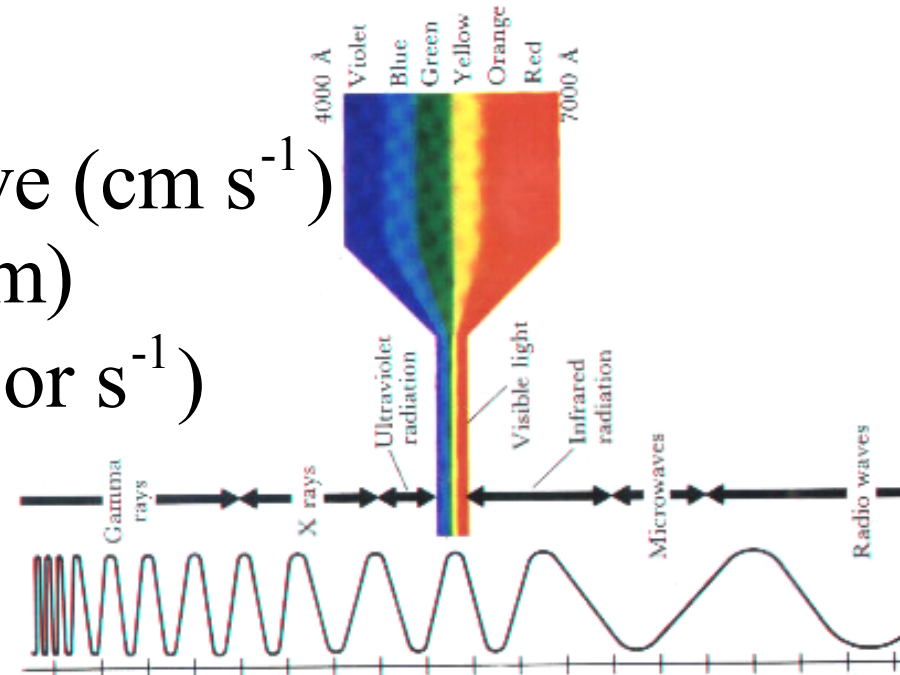
The Electromagnetic Spectrum

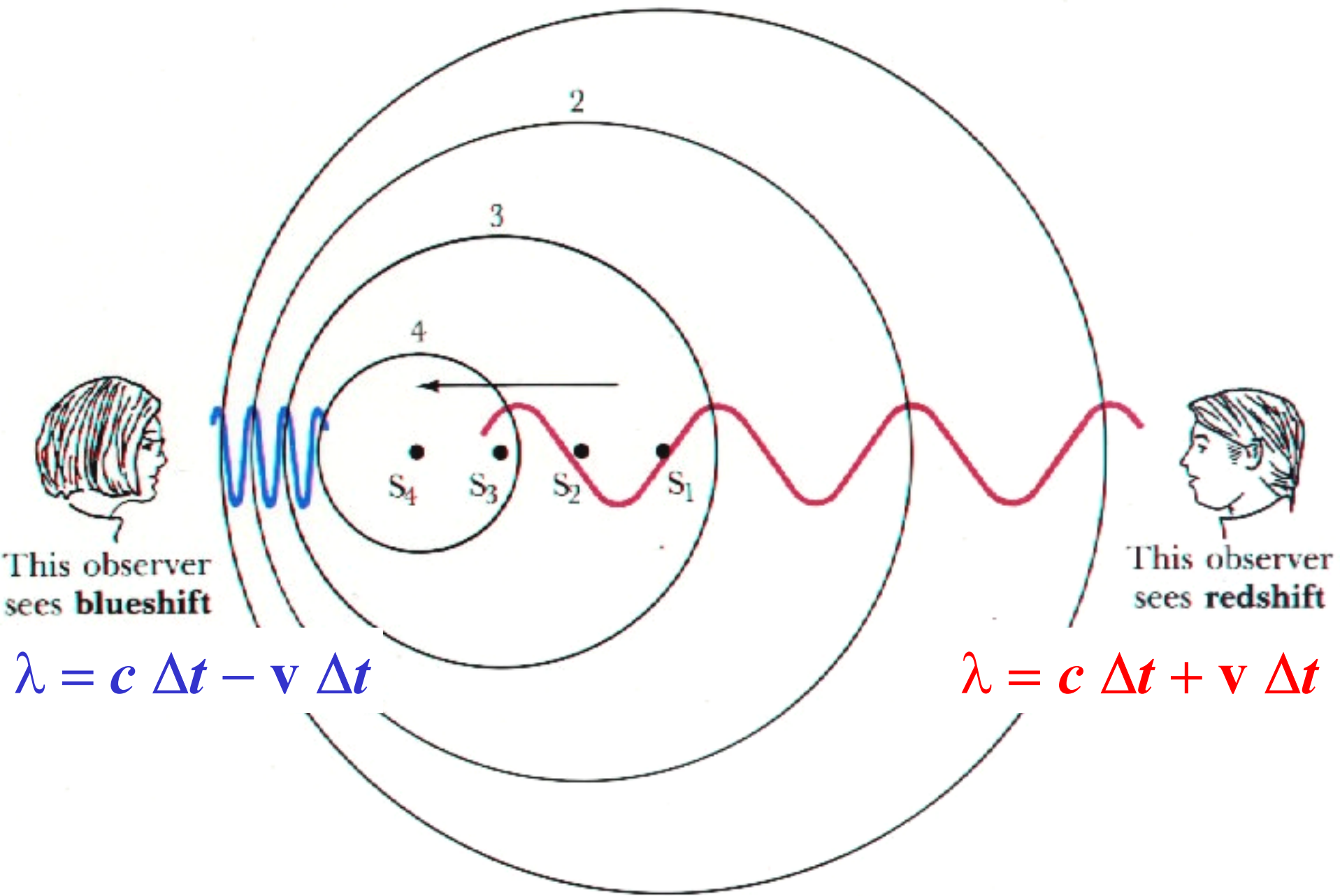


Facts about light

1. Light is a wave

$$c = \lambda \nu \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} c = \text{velocity of wave (cm s}^{-1}\text{)} \\ \lambda = \text{wavelength (cm)} \\ \nu = \text{frequency (Hz or s}^{-1}\text{)} \end{array} \right.$$



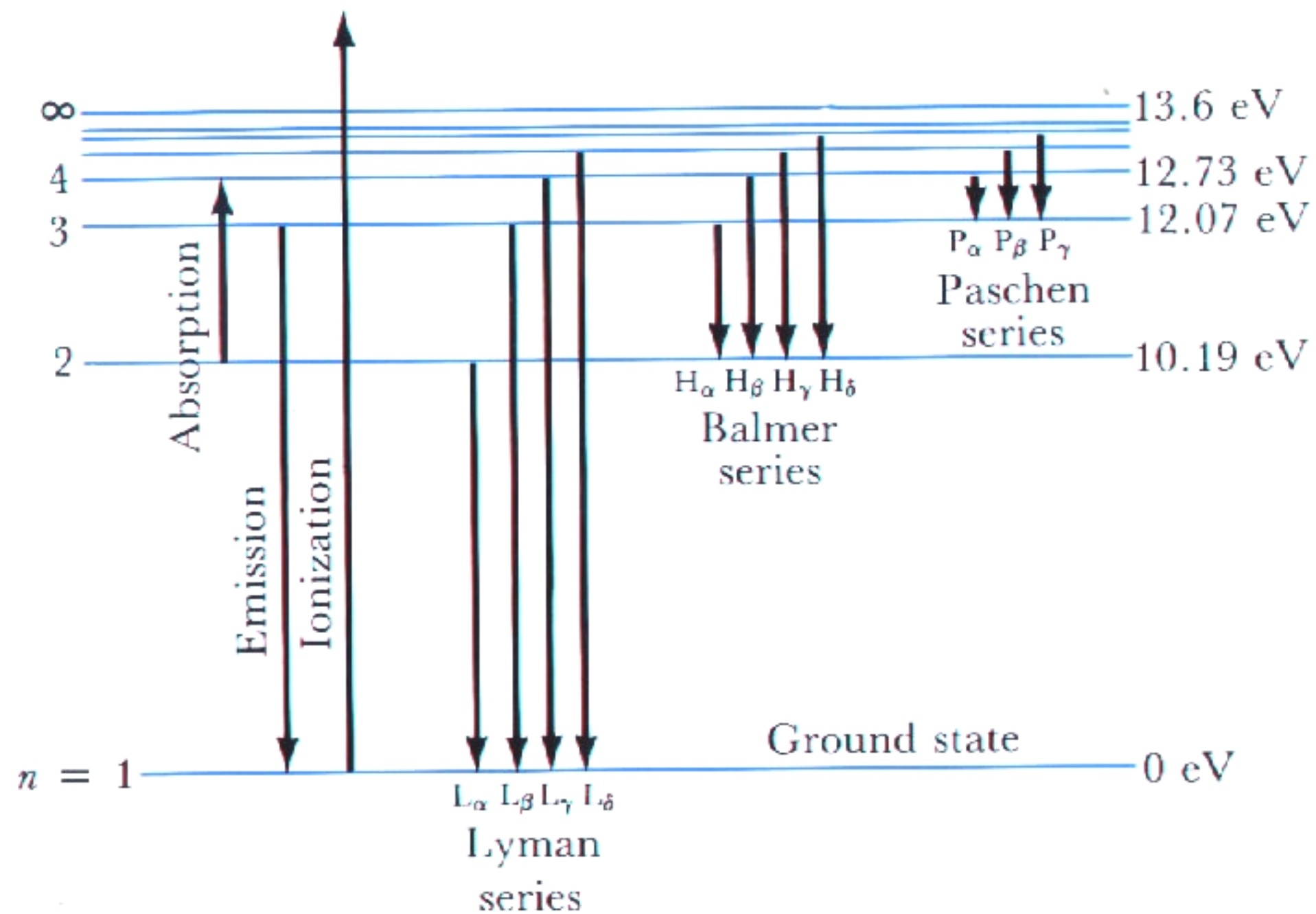


**Nothing exists but atoms and empty space;
everything else is opinion.**

- Demokritos

**Everything has been thought of before. The
problem is to think of it again.**

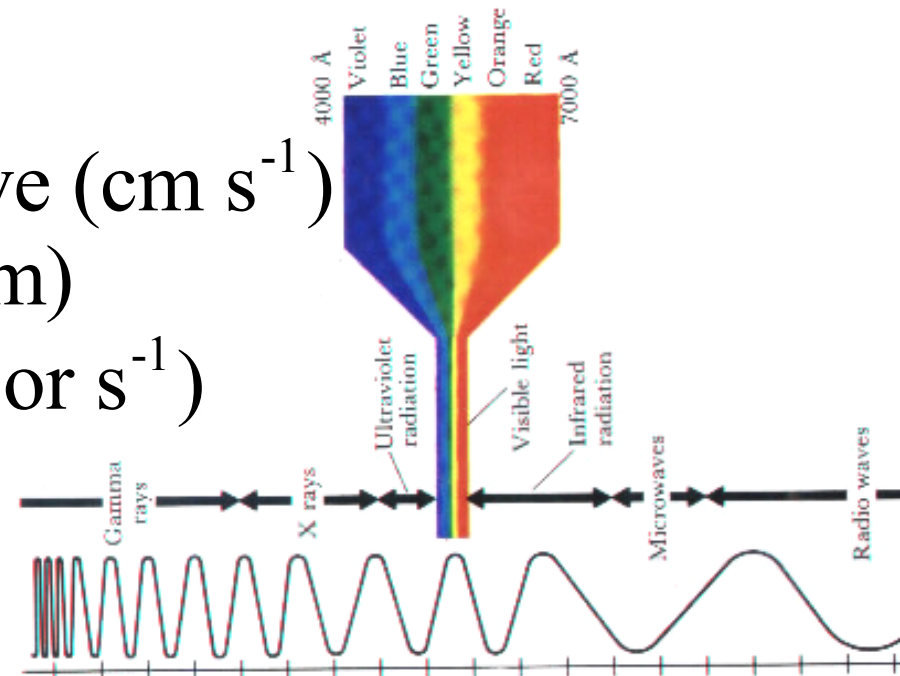
- Goethe



Facts about light

1. Light is a wave

$$c = \lambda \nu \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} c = \text{velocity of wave (cm s}^{-1}\text{)} \\ \lambda = \text{wavelength (cm)} \\ \nu = \text{frequency (Hz or s}^{-1}\text{)} \end{array} \right.$$



2. The wavelength is quantized



Blackbody

Cloud of gas

Prism



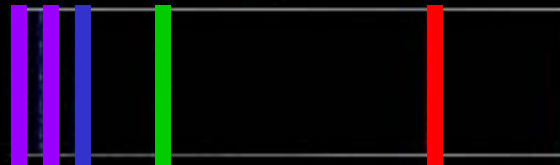
Absorption line spectrum

Prism



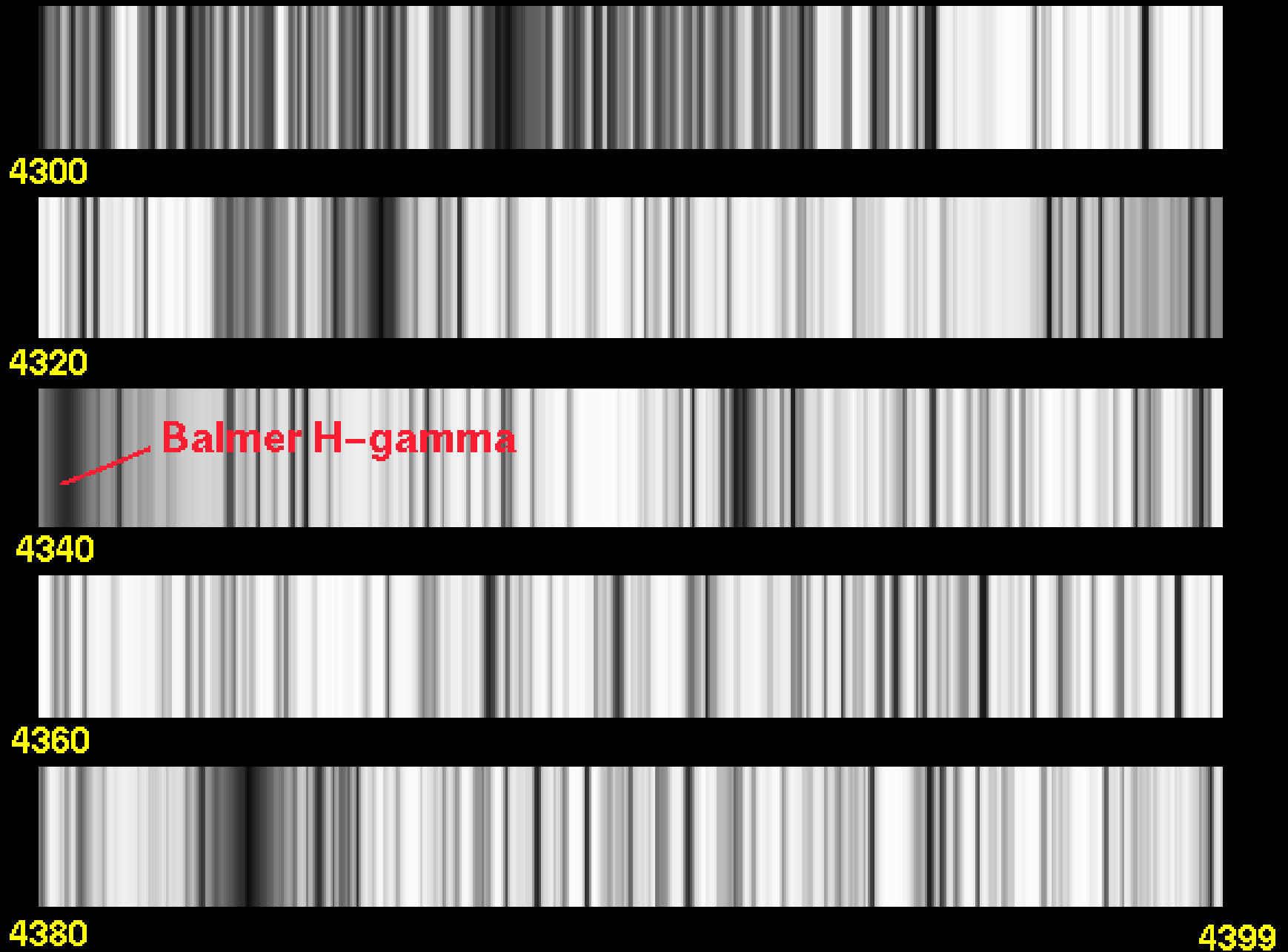
Continuous spectrum

Prism



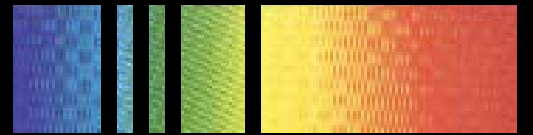
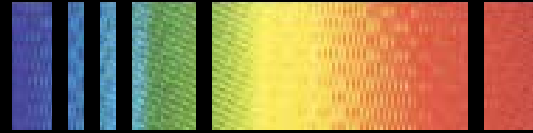
Emission line spectrum

Solar Spectrum 4300 – 4400 Angstroms





**blue
shift**



**red
shift**



Edwin Hubble
1884 - 1953

**The
red
shift**

$$\frac{\lambda}{\lambda_0} = 1 + \frac{v}{c}$$

λ **detected wavelength**

λ_0 **emitted wavelength**

v **recessional velocity**

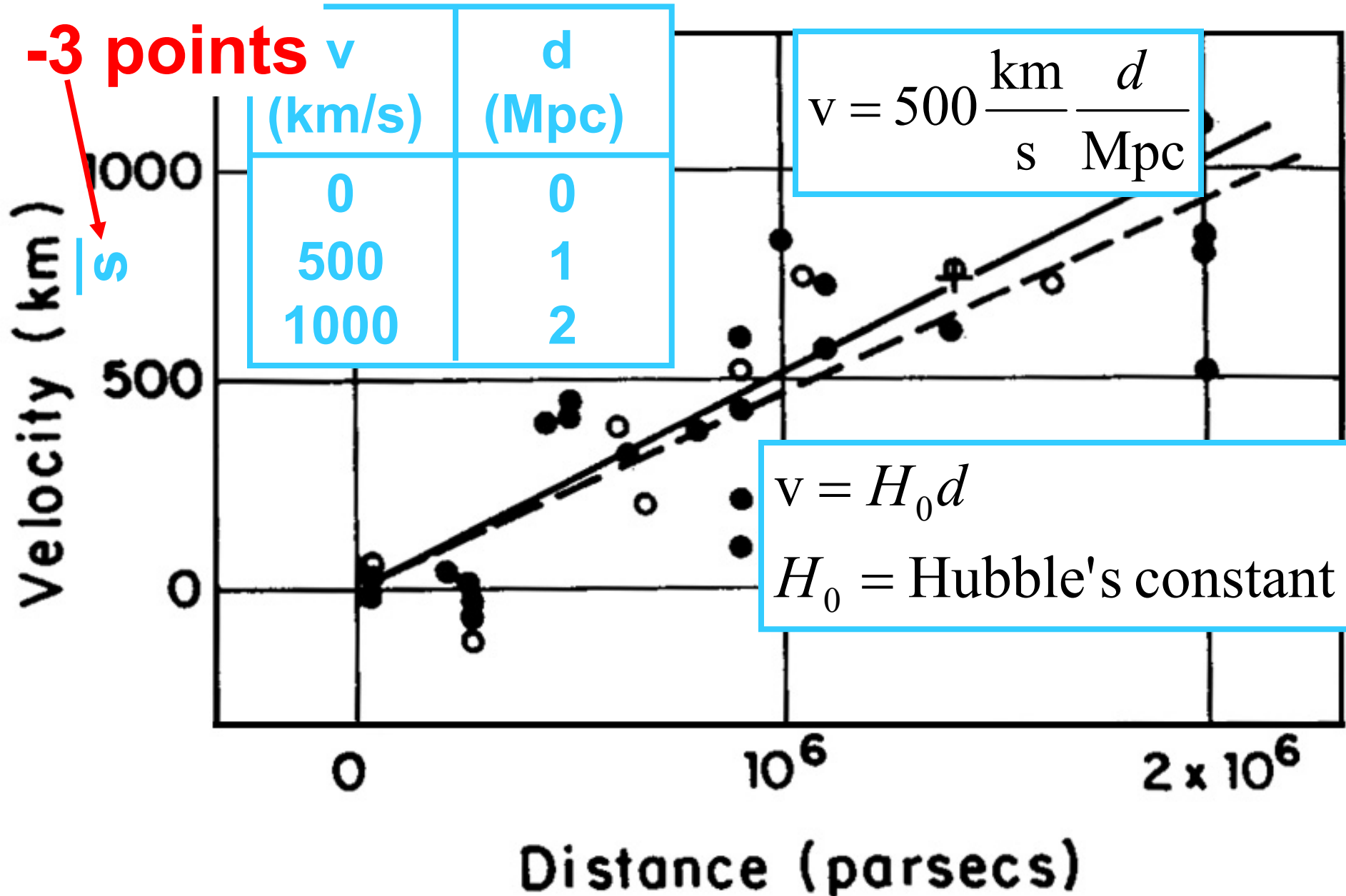
c **velocity of light**

$$\frac{\lambda}{\lambda_0} - 1 = \frac{v}{c}$$

$$c = 3 \times 10^5 \text{ km s}^{-1}$$

$$(\lambda > \lambda_0)$$

Hubble's Discovery Paper - 1929



INSTANT
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OATMEAL®**

With Real
**Cinnamon
& Spice**
All Natural Flavors

FACT OR FICTION
SCIENCE

The universe is shrinking
and will soon be the size
of a golf ball.

See other side for answer.

CONVENTIONAL DIRECTIONS

Empty packet into bowl.
Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup boiling water; stir.

MICROWAVE DIRECTIONS

Empty packet into micro-
waveable bowl.

Add $\frac{2}{3}$ cup water
or milk.

Microwave at **HIGH** about
1-2 minutes; stir.

Use care when removing
cereal from microwave;
bowl may be hot.

For **thicker** oatmeal decrease
liquid; for **thinner** oatmeal
increase liquid.

THE ANSWER

Fiction! Most stars and galaxies
are moving away from the earth
which means the universe is
actually getting bigger.

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INSTANT
QUAKER
OATMEAL®

With Real
**Cinnamon
& Spice**
All Natural Flavors

FACT OR FICTION
SCIENCE

Sir Isaac Newton
discovered gravity by
watching an apple fall.

See other side for answer.

CONVENTIONAL DIRECTIONS

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Add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup boiling water; stir.

MICROWAVE DIRECTIONS

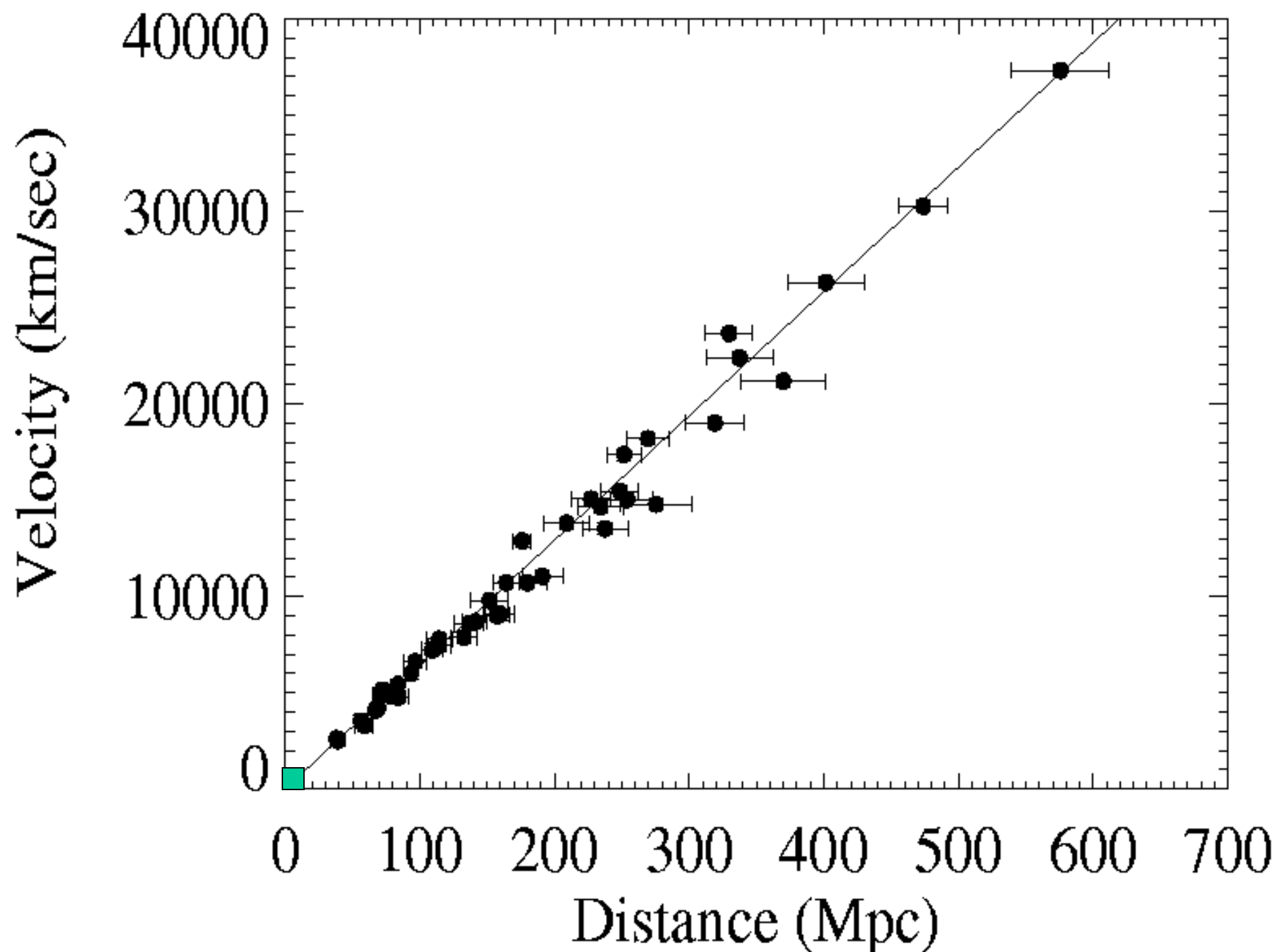
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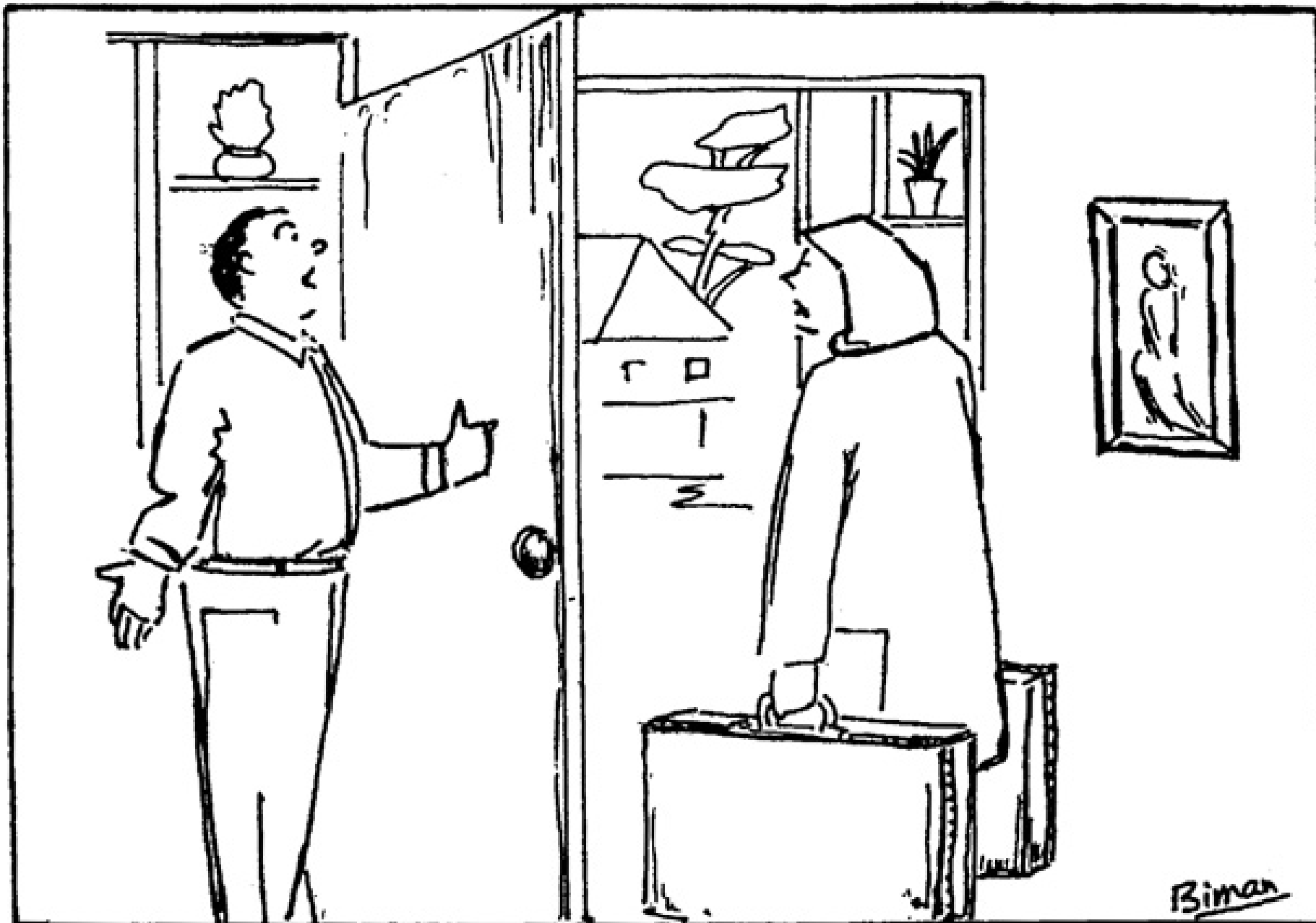
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increase liquid.

THE ANSWER

Fact! Newton made his
famous discovery as a young
man but was unable to prove
it until almost 20 years later.

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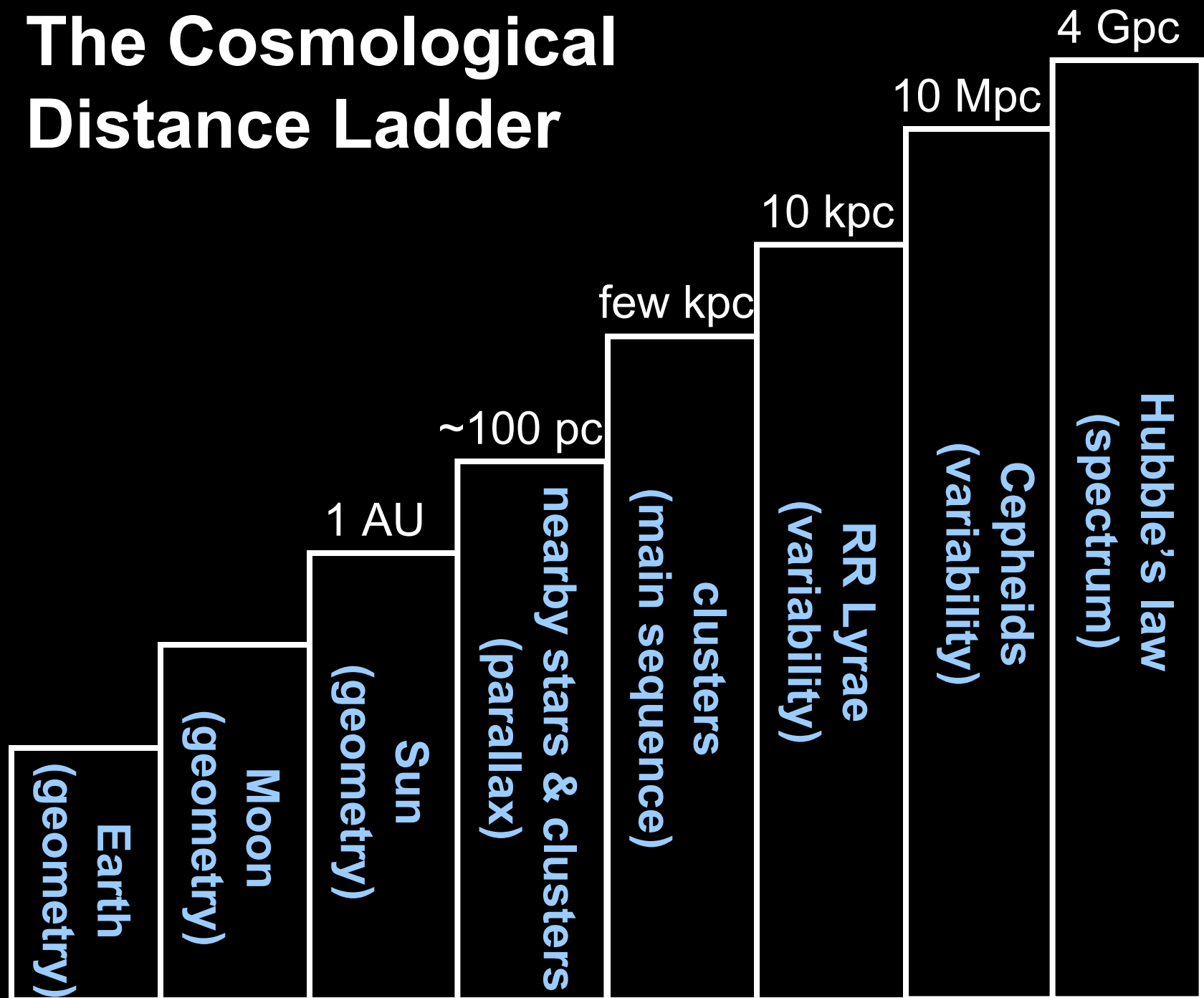
"THE HUBBLE CONSTANT? I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT THAT WOULD EVER COME BETWEEN US!"

$$v = H_0 d$$

H_0 = Hubble's constant

$H_0 = 500 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$	Hubble	1929
$H_0 = 100 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$		1960s
$H_0 = 55 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$		1970s
$H_0 = 65 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$		1990s
$H_0 = 72 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$		2001

The Cosmological Distance Ladder



Doppler Shift

λ_0 = rest wavelength

λ = detected wavelength

$$\lambda = \lambda_0 \left(1 \pm \frac{v}{c} \right) \quad \begin{array}{l} + \rightarrow \text{receding} \quad (\text{longer } \lambda) \\ - \rightarrow \text{approaching} \quad (\text{shorter } \lambda) \end{array}$$

$$v = H_0 d$$

H_0 = Hubble's constant

Let's assume $H_0 = 100 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$

$$v = 100 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{s}} \frac{d}{\text{Mpc}}$$

v	d
100 km s^{-1}	1 Mpc
$1,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$	10 Mpc
$10,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$	100 Mpc
$100,000 \text{ km s}^{-1}$	1,000 Mpc

